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# Report and Recommendations of the Interim Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs

November 1980



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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS  
POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS

A REPORT TO THE  
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

STUDY COMMITTEE  
ON CORRECTIONS

NOVEMBER 1980

Published by

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
STATE CAPITOL  
HELENA, MONTANA 59601



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	iii
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .	iii
SUMMARY . . . . .	v
HJR 65 . . . . .	vi
HJR 59 . . . . .	vii
1. INTRODUCTION AND COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS . . . . .	1
2. SENTENCING . . . . .	2
3. CORRECTIONS POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS . . . . .	9
MINORITY REPORT . . . . .	25
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	26
APPENDICES	
A. MEMORANDUM ON CRIMINAL SENTENCING . . . . .	A-1
B. REPORT ON SENTENCING DATA . . . . .	B-1
C. PROPOSED LEGISLATION . . . . .	C-1



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to thank Larry Zanto, Director of the Department of Institutions; Curt Chisholm, Deputy Director; Dan Russell, Corrections Division Administrator; and their staff for the cooperation they gave the Committee during the interim corrections study.

The Committee also commends the work of Warden Crist and Superintendents Al Davis, Mel Mohler and Don Robel. The Committee found that the Superintendents and their staffs are doing an outstanding job in carrying out their responsibilities to the State of Montana.



## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs found that:

- 1) There appears to be no immediate need for additional residential facilities at Montana State Prison; should the prison population increase so as to require additional facilities, careful consideration should be given to residential alternatives outside the prison;
- 2) Work rehabilitation and job training should be considered as worthwhile alternatives; and
- 3) The Committee views with alarm the increased incarceration rates recently experienced in Montana.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS - CORRECTIONS

The Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs recommends to the 47th Legislature:

- 1) That the Correctional Needs Report from the Department of Institutions be commended to the 47th Legislature for their consideration; and
- 2) That this state make a major commitment to adult probation and parole.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS - SENTENCING

The Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs recommends to the 47th Legislature:

- 1) That plea bargaining be an open process with a written record;
- 2) That the state be allowed to request an appellate review of a legal or a deferred sentence;
- 3) That the maximum period for deferred imposition of a sentence for a felony be increased from 3 to 5 years;
- 4) That fines and assessment of costs in felony criminal cases be allowed and community service as a condition of deferred or suspended sentence be allowed;
- 5) That additional sentences for crimes committed with a dangerous weapon run consecutively with the sentence provided for that offense;
- 6) That there be increased punishment of persons who have been convicted of three separate felonies;

- 7) That the period of time served before an offender is eligible for parole be increased from one-quarter to one-half for a non-dangerous offender, and from one-half to two-thirds for a dangerous offender;
- 8) That the good-time allowance for self-help programs and blood donations be eliminated and that it be clarified that good time is not earned while on parole; and
- 9) That a corrections board of visitors be created.

REFERRED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION TO THE 47TH LEGISLATURE

The Committee on corrections policy and Facility Needs refers without recommendation the following legislation to the 47th Legislature:

- 1) A bill to eliminate the provision that an offender serving a time sentence may be paroled after 17 1/2 years.
- 2) A bill to provide for mandatory sentences for 25 felony offenses.

## SUMMARY

The Interim Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs was formed to examine Montana's overall correction policy. HJR 65 requested that the Committee include in its study a consideration of:

- 1) the prison release and furlough programs;
- 2) pre-release programs and facilities;
- 3) questions about the maximum size of a prison facility that should be built in one location;
- 4) the proper use of community and forest work camp programs and the relationship of such programs to prison needs;
- 5) the long-term needs for prison facilities in the state;
- 6) the long-term needs for juvenile corrections and evaluation facilities; and
- 7) health care of prisoners.

In addition to those considerations, the Committee was assigned the study of sentencing in criminal cases (HJR 59).

Early in the study it was decided that because of the diverse interests of the Committee members and the need to respond immediately to the Department of Institutions' plan to construct a Stillwater Forest Camp, the Committee would initially act as a monitoring agent of the activities of the Department of Institutions during the development of a comprehensive correctional needs plan, while at the same time individual committee members would bring forth their proposals for changes in Montana's sentencing laws.

The Committee considered sixteen bill drafts. The subject of the bills ranged in complexity from a change in the number of years for a deferred sentence to a complete revision of sentencing statutes. After considerable debate by the Committee and public scrutiny during a public hearing, the Committee decided to recommend nine bills to the 47th Legislature and to refer two bills without recommendations to the 47th Legislature. These bills are discussed in the body of the report.

During the study, the Committee toured the major state correctional facilities. The Committee was concerned about the long-range planning by the Department of Institutions. After a number of requests for a long-range plan, the Committee received a Correctional Needs plan from the Department of Institutions at its final meeting in August. Since the Committee did not have adequate time to review the various recommendations contained in the report, the members decided to commend the report to the 47th Legislature. A summary of the report is contained in the body of the report.

## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59**

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN INTERIM STUDY OF SENTENCING IN CRIMINAL CASES.

WHEREAS, the 45th Legislature did not act on minimum sentencing legislation in expectation of receiving more information during the 1977-1978 interim; and

WHEREAS, the 46th Legislature has not been presented with such information; and

WHEREAS, the only way to ensure that the 47th Legislature receives the information is to have an interim legislative committee conduct a study; and

WHEREAS, uniformity in sentencing throughout Montana may be a highly desirable goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Committee on Priorities is requested to give high priority to the appointment of an interim committee, selected from the members of the Senate and House Committees on the Judiciary and the Senate and House Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Safety, to study sentencing of convicted criminal defendants in Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee report its findings to the 47th Legislature and, if necessary, draft legislation to implement its recommendations.

Approved April 18, 1979.

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 65

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING ASSIGNMENT OF AN INTERIM STUDY OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PRISON NEEDS.

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 300 inmates housed at the old prison facility in Deer Lodge; and

WHEREAS, it is intended that the old prison be closed upon completion of the two new medium security buildings at the new prison or as soon thereafter as practical; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the planned closure of the old prison occur as early as reasonably practical; and

WHEREAS, an assumed limit of 718 inmates can be housed in the new facilities, using double bunking whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, the total prison population is likely to exceed 718 in the near future; and

WHEREAS, this projected prison population increase indicates a need for the construction of additional prison space and auxiliary facilities or other alternatives; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop a long-term policy on construction and replacement of juvenile correctional and evaluation facilities; and

WHEREAS, long-term needs for replacement of facilities at juvenile institutions must be identified; and

WHEREAS, there are alternatives to the construction of additional prison facilities such as forest work camps, making better use of available space at the new prison, making use of space at other state institutions, the possibility of contracting services with private nonprofit corporations, use of facilities such as halfway houses, and the development of prerelease centers and other community facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature should relate overall corrections policy to facility needs and develop a long-range prison facilities plan to most economically meet the state's long-term prison needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

- (1) That an interim committee be assigned to study Montana's corrections policy and related prison needs.
- (2) That the committee include in its study a consideration of at least the following:
  - (a) the prison release and furlough programs;
  - (b) pre-release programs and facilities;
  - (c) questions about the maximum size of a prison facility that should be built in one location;
  - (d) the proper use of community and forest work camp programs and the relationship of such programs to prison needs;
  - (e) the long-term need for prison facilities in the state;
  - (f) the long-term needs for juvenile correction and evaluation facilities; and
  - (g) health care of prisoners.
- (3) That the department of institutions shall consult with the committee in the development of the comprehensive plan set forth in HB 483 relating to the appropriation of \$3 million as set forth in item 7 of the appropriations to the department's central office.
- (4) That the committee submit to the 47th Legislature a report of its findings together with recommendations for future corrections policy in Montana and recommendations for the construction of additional prison facilities, the location of such facilities, and other pertinent recommendations.



## I. INTRODUCTION AND COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS.

### I.

The Interim Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs was formed for the purpose of studying Montana's overall corrections policy and related correctional programs and facilities, both in the community and in institutional settings. HJR 65 specifically requested that the Committee include in its study a consideration of at least the following:

- 1) the prison release and furlough programs;
- 2) pre-release programs and facilities;
- 3) questions about the maximum size of a prison facility that should be built in one location;
- 4) the proper use of community and forest work camp programs and the relationship of such programs to prison needs;
- 5) the long-term needs for prison facilities in the state;
- 6) the long-term needs for juvenile corrections and evaluation facilities; and
- 7) health care of prisoners.

The Committee was also charged with the duty to consult with the Department of Institutions in "the development of the comprehensive plan set forth in HB 483 relating to the appropriation of \$3 million as set forth in item 7 of the appropriations to the Department's central office."

In addition, the Committee was assigned the study of sentencing in criminal cases (HJR 59).

The concern for uniformity in sentencing was a major topic in the 45th and 46th legislative sessions. Legislators were hampered during these sessions by inadequate information on mandatory or determinate sentencing since the move in other states to this type of sentencing was just beginning to gain momentum during this period. HJR 59 was introduced in order to ensure that this information would be available to the 47th Legislature. Since current sentencing practices and any proposed changes in sentencing practices would have a definite relationship to the state's overall corrections policy and the need for correctional facilities and programs, the Interim Study Committee on Corrections Policy approached both assignments knowing that changes in one part of the system would affect the rest of the system.

## II.

The Committee met on nine separate occasions and had several two day meetings. The Committee devoted a number of meetings to the examination of state facilities. Members toured the Montana State Prison, Mountain View School, Pine Hills School, the Helena Attention Home, and an aftercare group home in Helena. Several members of the Committee also toured the Life Skills Center in Missoula and the Swan River Youth Forest Camp.

The Committee held a public hearing to hear views on the correctional needs of the state and to receive testimony on proposed sentencing legislation.

## III.

Early in the study it was decided that because of the diverse interests of the Committee members and the need to respond immediately to the Department of Institutions' plan to construct a Stillwater Forest Camp, the Committee would initially act as a monitoring agent of the activities of the Department of Institutions during the development of a comprehensive correctional needs plan, while at the same time individual committee members would bring forth their proposals for changes in Montana's sentencing laws.

A further discussion of Committee deliberations is contained in the following presentations of the two separate assignments undertaken by the Committee. Sentencing proposals are discussed in chapter 2 and corrections policy and facility needs are discussed in chapter 3.

## 2. SENTENCING.

### I.

The controversy concerning uniformity of sentencing practices has held the attention of legislators, academicians, criminal justice system officials and the public for many years. An immense amount of information is available on this subject. Because of the interest of several Committee members in the area of determinate sentencing, both mandatory and presumptive, the staff prepared a summary of determinate sentencing laws in other states.\* The Committee also requested a panel presentation of information from individuals who had been participants in the Montana Justice Project and who were currently involved in specific aspects of the sentencing process.

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\* see Appendix A

The Montana Justice Project was the product of the Montana Council on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals. This Council was appointed by Governor Judge in October 1974 to adopt a set of standards and goals for the improvement of Montana's criminal justice system. Five task forces (Law Enforcement, Courts, Corrections, Information Systems, and Community Crime Prevention) were set up by the Council to research and draft standards and goals for review and adoption by the Council. Three members of this project addressed the Study Committee. They are: Henry Burgess, Chairman of the Projects Task Force on Corrections and current Chairman of the Board of Pardons; Judge Gordon Bennett, member of the Task Force on Corrections and a district court judge; and Mike Abley, coordinator of the Task Force on Courts and currently Administrator of the Montana Supreme Court. The Committee also received testimony from Harold Hanser, Yellowstone County Attorney. The general opinion gathered from this presentation was that the present system was working fairly well but there could be some "fine tuning." Henry Burgess recommended that there be periodic sentencing institutes for Montana judges and visitations of penal institutions by newly appointed judges. Harold Hanser suggested that lower courts be upgraded and a system of bifurcated sentencing hearings be initiated. Judge Bennett cautioned that the system be treated as a whole. He said that sentencing involves an identification of resources. If there is a program to modify or change the behavior of an offender, there is one kind of a sentence, but if there is no program, there is another kind of sentence.

Following the panel's presentation, the Study Committee, realizing the divergence of opinion among the Committee members, decided to allow individual members to submit bill drafting requests. A description of this proposed legislation as well as a brief account of the Committee deliberations on the bills is contained in part II.

## II

The two major pieces of legislation proposed by Committee members would have the potential of extensively revising Montana's sentencing laws. One, LC 38, proposed a schedule of presumptive sentences. In other words, a specific sentence would be set by law for each felony offense. A sentence could be set above or below the presumed sentence and within the range now set by law for the felony offense if the judge found that aggravating or mitigating circumstances were present. The judge would have to state on the record the reason for deviating from the presumptive sentence. All other provisions of current sentencing provisions would be retained, i.e., the offender would still be subject to the parole provisions contained in current law. Senator Towe, the requestor of the bill, had intended to include a schedule of presumptive sentences as a part of the bill. These sentences

would have been based on the average sentence given for that offense. However, because of a number of problems with present sentencing data\*, Senator Towe decided to amend the bill to require that the Montana Supreme Court, after consultation with district court judges, would prepare a schedule of presumptive sentences. After much debate LC 38 was tabled by the Committee when it was decided that the other proposal, LC 54, would be referred to the 47th Legislature.

LC 54 proposed to make only certain specific considerations relevant in determining the length of a sentence. Those considerations would be the nature of the crime committed, the defendant's criminal history, and the facts and circumstances surrounding the commission of the offense. The bill would attempt to solve the problem of disparate sentences and eliminate instances where judges ignore existing sentencing requirements. The specific provisions of LC 54 are:

- A. It would restrict deferral and suspension of sentence to a person:
  - 1) who was less than 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the offense for which he is to be sentenced;
  - 2) whose mental capacity, at the time of the commission of the offense for which he is to be sentenced, was significantly impaired, although not so impaired as to constitute a defense to the prosecution;
  - 3) who at the time of the commission of the offense for which he is to be sentenced, was acting under unusual and substantial duress, although not such duress as would constitute a defense to the prosecution;
  - 4) who was an accomplice, the conduct constituting the offense was principally the conduct of another, and the defendant's participation was relatively minor; or
  - 5) where applicable, no serious bodily injury was inflicted on the victim unless a weapon was used in the commission of the offense.
- B. It would require the imposition of a fixed sentence for a particular crime.\*\*

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\* See a general discussion of these problems in Appendix B.

\*\* Rep. Keedy, who proposed this bill, originally intended to develop a fixed sentence for each felony. However, because of the problems with the sentencing data, Rep. Keedy devised a schedule of fixed sentences for 25 felonies.

C. It would give the judge the authority to increase the sentence by a fixed percentage if aggravating circumstances were found to be present at the time the crime was committed.

D. It would grant the judge the authority to reduce the sentence by a fixed percentage if mitigating circumstances were found to be present.

This proposal has been labeled mandatory sentencing. While the bill does mandate sentences for 25 felonies, it does not eliminate the discretion of the parole board as a true mandatory sentencing bill would do. However, it does severely limit the discretion of the judge. Several Committee members were concerned about restrictions imposed by this bill, but because there was Committee support for the concept of limiting judicial discretion, the bill was referred out without recommendation.

While the two bills discussed above did not attempt to change current parole provisions several other bills proposed by Committee members did.

LC 51 and LC 52 would respond to public criticism concerning the unfulfilled expectation that an individual will be sent to prison for the entire time for which he is sentenced. In reality, the offender may serve about one-fifth the time if he is a non-dangerous offender and is eligible for all allowable good-time reductions.

LC 51 (to revise the laws relating to parole eligibility) would change the provisions for parole eligibility. The bill requires that an offender serve two-thirds of the term before being eligible for parole, rather than serving one-half of the term as is now required by state law. The minimum time a non-dangerous offender must serve would be increased to one-half from the present one-quarter of the term. The intent of this legislation is to insure that the actual time served by the offender closely corresponds to the sentence given by the judge. The Committee requested that a statement of intent accompany the bill. That statement is as follows:

It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this legislation that the time actually served in prison by an individual not be increased as a result of this change in parole eligibility but that the sentence that is imposed coincide more closely with the term of imprisonment. The law should be construed by the District Courts and the Sentence Review Board to effectuate having a sentence imposed which would result in a term of imprisonment comparable to the median prison term served for the same crime in the preceding ten years.

LC 52 (to revise the law relating to good-time allowance) would attempt to readjust the time served by inmates. Testimony received by the Committee concerning the lack of consistency in the definition of self-help programs and the nonuse of the good-time allowance for blood donations prompted the Committee to propose elimination of the good-time allowance provisions for these programs. LC 52 also would clarify existing law to provide that good-time not be earned while the convict is on parole.

LC 32 (to eliminate the provision that an offender serving a time sentence--a sentence of more than 35 years--may be paroled after 17 1/2 years) was also designed to ensure that an offender serve the court's sentence. One Committee member viewed the 17 1/2 year parole provision as a provision that frustrated the purpose of the original sentence, while another member said that 17 1/2 years provided a sufficient time period for individual growth and change. It was pointed out that the parole provision would allow the individual to be considered eligible for parole but it did not guarantee that the individual would automatically receive the parole. Since several members of the Committee felt that this parole provision should receive further attention from the 47th Legislature, the Committee voted to submit the bill without recommendation.

Several bills proposed by the Committee are attempts to strengthen current laws.

LC 40 would mandate that the sentence imposed for the use of a weapon in the commission of a crime run consecutively with the sentence provided for the offense. The Committee conducted a survey of the county attorneys in the state and that survey indicated that the additional sentence for offenses committed with a dangerous weapon, required by 46-18-22, MCA, was not being applied by the judiciary.

LC 41 (to provide for increased punishment of persons who have been convicted of three separate felonies). Rep. Gould, who requested the bill, said that the purpose of LC 41 is to convince a person who has been convicted twice of felonies, but who has not learned from his prison experience, that he should give his situation some thought and perhaps decide that "going straight" is a better way of getting along in the world. LC 41 provides for a longer sentence for individuals convicted of a third felony offense. The bill states that an offender who was a persistent felony offender at the time of his previous felony conviction, less than 5 years have elapsed between his previous felony conviction and the commission of the present offense, and he was 21 years of age or older at the time of the commission of the present offense, he will be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not less than 10 years or more than 100. A judge may not defer or suspend the first 10 years of the sentence.

For some felony offenses the use of the deferred sentence has constituted an effective method for placing under supervision individuals who would not benefit from incarceration. However, since some judges do not consider three years to be a sufficient period of supervision - LC 35 (to increase to five years the maximum period for deferred imposition of a sentence for a felony) was proposed. The majority of the Committee felt that this bill should receive recommendation.

Some of the proposed legislation was a result of testimony received at a February 1980 public hearing. This testimony brought to the attention of the Committee that there was a need for: 1) a requirement to make plea bargaining a matter of public record; 2) a procedure to allow the state to request an appellate review of legal sentences; and 3) the judge to be able to fine or assess cost in felony criminal cases and allow community service as a condition of deferred or suspended sentences.

LC 34 allows the state to request an appellate review of both legal sentences and deferred imposition of a sentence. This means that if an offender receives a sentence that is viewed by the prosecution as an unjustly light sentence, the prosecuting attorney may approach the attorney general to ask the sentence review board for a review of that sentence. A question was raised about potential abuse of the right to appeal, and the provision that the attorney general request the review was viewed as a means of curtailing this potential abuse.

LC 33 (to provide a plea agreement procedure) was in response to the charge that plea bargaining would increase if mandatory sentencing were imposed. During testimony at the public hearing a question was raised as to whether individuals who engage in plea bargaining are being treated equitably. When it was brought to the Committee's attention that although many jurisdictions require plea agreements to be in writing in many cases there are no rules governing the contents of the plea agreement, LC 33 was drafted. LC 33 is based upon the Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11. It provides that the defendant may enter a plea for a specific sentence, and if the court refuses the sentence, the defendant may withdraw his plea and go to trial. While the judge may not engage in the plea agreement, he will be informed in writing at the time of being presented with the plea bargain as to the exact reasons for the plea bargain. In addition, since the reasons for the plea bargain will be on the record, the press and interested members of the public will be able to find out the reasons for a plea bargain in a particular case. Testimony received by the Committee indicated that plea bargaining occurs in approximately 90% of the cases before the court and it can be a useful tool in speeding up the judicial process while eliminating the cost of bringing the majority of offenders to trial.

Another bill that would have the potential of cutting costs by increasing the sentencing options available to judges is LC 36. LC 36 (to provide for fines and assessment of costs in felony criminal cases and allowing community service as a condition of deferred or suspended sentences) was a response to the complaint that for certain white collar crimes and other kinds of economic crimes where for a variety of reasons incarceration is not likely to be an effective solution, no other alternatives are available. This bill offers that alternative. However the court is limited in its application of this sentence. The court may not sentence a defendant to pay a fine unless the defendant is or will be able to pay the fine. This restriction is also true for the assessment of costs. Also, a defendant who has been sentenced to pay costs and who is not in default in the payment may at any time petition the court to remove that sentence if it is imposing a manifest hardship on the defendant or his immediate family. If the fine or costs are a condition of a suspended or deferred sentence the suspension or deferral may not be revoked if the offender defaults and the default is not attributable to an intentional refusal to obey the order of the court or a failure to make a good faith effort to make the payment. The money collected by the court would be paid to the county general fund of the county in which the court is held.

For many years several members of the Committee and other members of the Legislature have been involved in reviewing correctional facilities. These legislators are often inundated with complaints from prisoners or the prisoners' family members.

LC 53 (which would establish a board of visitors for corrections facilities) would provide for an independent review of correctional facilities, and would eliminate the shotgun or crisis approach to reviewing problems in these facilities. LC 53 provides for a three-member board of visitors, appointed by the Governor, to visit and inspect each state correctional facility annually. The board would also be authorized to inspect local correctional facilities. The board would be empowered to investigate individual complaints. It would report annually to the Governor and biennially to the Legislature concerning the status of correctional facilities in the state.\*

Besides LC 38, the Committee considered three other bills which they chose not to recommend. They are: LC 46 (to abolish the existing parole system and provide for fixed sentences, one-third of the sentence is in prison and two-thirds in the community under supervision); LC 49 (mandatory increased punishment for two or more rapes or attempted rapes); and LC 50 (to create permanent incarceration or full sentence on a third felony conviction). LC 46 was requested because the requestor felt that what the public sees happening and what actually happens in sentencing may not always be the same. He felt that there should be a definite system under which an individual would be punished by being sent to prison for a definite period of time and released to supervision at the end of that period. This would eliminate the discretion of the parole board. It was moved that the Committee reject the intent of the bill as proposed legislation of the Committee. The motion passed 4 to 3.

\* A minority position has been taken with regard to LC 53. This report is on p. 25.

The intent of both LC 49 and LC 50 was to increase penalties for persistent offenders. The consensus of the Committee was that current laws or other proposed legislation before the Committee would handle these problems.

During the Committee's work on sentencing legislation, the Committee repeatedly requested suggestions or criticism from all members of the judicial system. Response was good from some members, especially the parole board, many county attorneys, and several district judges. However, on the whole the Committee received very little assistance from the majority of individuals in the judicial branch.

### 3. CORRECTIONS POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS

#### I. Committee Deliberations

After an organizational meeting in July, 1979 the Committee began its consideration of Montana's correctional needs with a tour of the Montana State Prison on August 24, 1979. The Committee received reports from the Department of Institutions concerning prison population projections and prison expansion alternatives. The Department announced that its original prison population projections were overstated. A recalculation of the prison population projections, based on modified assumptions, showed that the prison expansion project funded by the 46th Legislature was not justified. It was at this time that the Department announced that it had dropped plans to construct the proposed Stillwater Forest Camp. The Committee informed the Department that it would like a revised plan for programs and facilities to meet Montana's correctional needs.

On October 11 the Committee toured the Helena Attention Home, an aftercare group home and the Mountain View School. On October 12 the Department of Institutions gave the Study Committee a progress report on prison alternatives that included options for a half-way house in Billings, use of the Family Training Center in Glasgow, creation of a forensic unit at Warm Springs, the expansion of the Swan River facility, increased use of parole, a proposal for contracting with the Swift Bird Indian Program in South Dakota and expansion of the Life Skills Training Center in Missoula as a pre-release program. The Study Committee passed two motions at this meeting. Senator Towe moved that the Committee go on record as approving the Department of Institutions' presentation and the direction it is taking at the present time. Senator Stephens moved that the Committee go on record in support of the concept that monies that are now available for the funding of the Billings half-way house--that the Committee endorse the concept and urge agencies and other committees involved to concur and affirm the program.

While the Committee approved of the direction the Department of Institutions was taking, there was still a concern regarding long-range planning by the Department. At the December 1979 meeting of the Committee, the Department presented an update of its prison alternatives plan. This plan proposed three alternatives to prison: the Billings and Missoula halfway houses and the Family Training Center in Glasgow. Department spokesmen then stated that they were unable to proceed with the plan since the Legislative Finance Committee had ruled that the decision to use the money appropriated in HB 483 was tied directly to the population increments at the prison, and until the prison experienced an increase in population the Department should not spend the appropriation. The Study Committee renewed its request that the Department develop a full long-range plan. The Committee passed a motion that Sen. Towe and Rep. Gould go to the Finance Committee meeting and tell them, in the strongest possible language, that the Committee supports the community correction program.

In February 1980, the Committee held a public hearing. The majority of the testimony was on proposed sentencing legislation, but concern was expressed that present corrections facilities would be unable to handle the increased numbers of those incarcerated if the proposed legislation was enacted. The Committee asked the Department for reports on 1) good time allowance, 2) female offenders, 3) sexual offenders, and 4) probation and parole.

In April the Committee toured the Pine Hills School and facilities. There was a discussion of the lawsuit that was pending against the school. The Committee again addressed the need for long-range planning by the Department of Institutions. Mr. Russell, Administrator, Corrections Division, responded that the Department was engaged in preparing the various reports requested by the Committee at its February meeting but he would have a long-range plan prepared by July or August.

At its June meeting the Committee received reports on good-time allowance, female offenders, sexual offenders, and probation and parole. The Committee agreed that the direction of corrections should be toward local or community corrections. There was a discussion of Alpha House, the Billings pre-release center. It was announced that it had finally received approval and had begun operating. Several members of the Committee also discussed their recent tour of the Swan River Forest Camp and the Missoula Life Skills Center. It was recommended that the Committee explore the possibility of having similar programs in other parts of the state.

The Committee received the long-awaited Correctional Needs plan from the Department of Institutions at its final meeting in August. Since the Committee did not have adequate time to review the various recommendations contained in the report and it was unable to agree upon the priority of the needs contained in the report, the members decided to commend the report to the 47th Legislature. A summary of that report is contained in the next section.

## II. Summary of Correctional Needs Report

### Overview

The Correctional Needs Report describes the programs of the state correctional system and outlines the future direction and needs of each program. The report contains: 1) a statement of the philosophy of each program; 2) a program description; 3) population projections; 4) program capacity; 5) long-range building plans; 6) special equipment needs; 7) staffing analysis; 8) proposed legislation; 9) caseloads; and 10) other problems in significant areas. Because of the length of the Correctional Needs Report, this summary will contain a brief description of the programs, population projections, and specific long-range needs.

### Montana State Prison

The Montana State Prison provides a supervised security setting in which adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical services and treatment programs are provided for offenders.

The Department of Institutions has developed several projections of future prison populations. When 1979 Master Plan projections were found to be too high, the projections were revised by the Department of Institutions in August of 1979. An independent analysis of the Department's revised figures was made by Western Analysis, Incorporated, in November of 1979. The projections are listed in Table I.

Table I  
COMPARISON OF PROJECTIONS

	<u>Master Plan</u>	<u>Department of Institutions (Revision)</u>	<u>Western Analysis</u>
FY 1980	838	738	693
FY 1981	930	773	707
FY 1982	1014	798	721
FY 1983	1065	817	733
FY 1984	1064	831	746
FY 1985	1010	840	760
FY 1986	936	n/a	773
FY 1987	845	n/a	784
FY 1988	741	n/a	795
FY 1989	704	n/a	804
FY 1990	636	n/a	813

The programs and support services at the Montana State Prison have been geared to 672 inmates. The absolute capacity of the prison is 820 if it is filled as described in Table II.

TABLE II  
PRISON SYSTEM CAPACITY

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
1.	Three-96 man units (A, B, C)	288
2.	Two-96 man units (Close I & Close II)	<u>192</u>
	Total Design Capacity	480
3.	Double bunking the two 96 man units	<u>192</u>
	Total Rated Capacity	672
4.	Using Counselor Rooms	36
5.	Double bunking in A,B, & C Units	36
6.	Swan River Youth Forest Camp	50
7.	Maximum Security Unit	<u>26</u>
	ABSOLUTE CAPACITY	820

Two metal buildings from the old prison are currently being converted into an Industries Complex at the new prison. While these buildings will provide more work opportunities for the inmate population, the Department would like to see an expansion of available shop space.

The authorized FY 80 staffing base at the prison is 262.17 but the prison is currently operating with an additional 27 FTE based on the Department's assessment that adequate security and treatment in the new prison requires more staff than was expected during the planning phase. In addition, the Department has done a "Post-Trick" analysis\* which indicates that the prison should be staffed at 300.825 FTE.

As of July 23, 1980, the prison had six social workers responsible for the casework needs of 652 inmates. This is a ratio of one social worker to 108 inmates. In addition to working with the inmates, the social workers are also responsible for intake, reclassification, parole reports, and unit management. The Department noted that the 15 percent of the population that is Indian may require special staffing patterns.

The Department foresees the following medical needs:

- 1) full-time medical doctor;
- 2) registered nurse seven days per week and a number of licensed practical nurses; and
- 3) a program for adequate psychiatric treatment in a secure setting, either at the prison or elsewhere.

The following educational needs were mentioned in the report:

- 1) mathematics and basic science programs;
- 2) an academic testing and counseling program;
- 3) an increased number of vocational and educational supplies;
- 4) increased funding for the associate of arts degree program;

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\* According to the Department, this analysis assesses all factors which mitigate a staffing pattern for the prison - such as holidays, sick leave, vacations, replacement, etc.

- 5) additional industries foremen; and
- 6) a full alcohol abuse prevention program.

#### Swan River Youth Forest Camp

Swan River facility maintains a forest industries work program provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The Youth Camp has the capacity to handle 50 individuals between 18 and 25 years of age. The Department of Institutions has recommended increasing the capacity by 20. This would require additional dorm space. The Department has also indicated that there is a need to add on to the multipurpose room. The program lacks recreational facilities for residents during the winter months, a time when other work activities must be curtailed.

#### Pine Hills School

By statute, the Pine Hills School is directed to "properly diagnose, care for, train, educate, and rehabilitate" youth referred by Montana's youth courts. Acceptable federal standards suggest that it be accomplished in the "least restrictive environment."

A recent evaluation performed by out-of-state experts indicated that to be acceptable, the population at the Pine Hills School could not exceed 100 students. This recommendation was based on physical plant capacity.

The Pine Hills School is now performing four distinct functions:

- 1) 45 day evaluations
- 2) Intensive treatment programing
- 3) Federal boarder program
- 4) Regular open programing

According to the Department, in order to perform a meaningful experience for students in these subprograms the recommended levels should not exceed the following:

- 1) 45 day evaluation program ... 14
  - 2) Intensive Treatment Program ... 8
  - 3) Federal boarder program ... 4
  - 4) Regular open programing ... 74
- Total ... 100

The school will be constructing a 24-bed ISU/Pre-Release Lodge in the spring of 1981. The lodge will replace a lodge that is no longer functional. The school will also be continuing a remodeling program of three structurally sound lodges.

#### Mountain View School

Mountain View School is directed by statute "to properly diagnose, care for, train, educate, and rehabilitate children in need of these services."

The capacity of the education program and school building is 70. The capacity of the cottages are:

- 1) Cottonwood - 9 children and 5 temporary security rooms
- 2) Maple - 20 children
- 3) Spruce - 20 children
- 4) Aspen - 14 children

Changes in capacity and type of building may occur if the Mountain View School receives funds to construct a 32-bed duplex cottage.

While there are no long-range building programs planned, the Department has expressed a need for one-story fire resistant cottages to replace existing cottages constructed in the 1920's.

#### Women's Prison Programs

Women's programs involve three alternatives: 1) secure institutional placement; 2) intermediate levels of security placement; and 3) a minimum security unit - the Billings Life Skills Training Center.

As a part of a plan to handle the expanding women offender population, the Department is proposing the use of contracted space with other state/federal prisons as a safety valve for the most serious or dangerous women offenders.

The women inmates' population is expanding, requiring the Division to incarcerate at least 24-26 women a year.

Currently there is no capacity in Montana for the secure incarceration of women offenders. The Division currently places nine to ten women in out-of-state facilities. Nevada can accept up to ten women but they will not automatically accept any referral nor can they guarantee space should their own population continue to increase.

To cope with the possibility of not being able to use Nevada, the Division has so far located other potential resources which include:

- 1) Federal system (approximately \$45/day).
- 2) Idaho, after they construct (July '82), (cost is undetermined).
- 3) Wyoming, when renovation is finished, (cost is undetermined).
- 4) California (approximately \$33/day).
- 5) Arizona, when construction is completed, (approximately \$52/day).

The Department hopes that the use of out-of-state incarceration can be kept to a minimum by the development of an intermediate program within Montana.

There are no facilities or programs for women who do not fit into the Billings Life Skills Center or high security prisons. The Department proposes the development of a community-based program similar to the Billings Life Skills Center. The projected population of this program is six to eight women inmates who require intermediate levels of security and supervision.

The Billings Life Skills Training Center is a minimum security prison. The capacity of the center is 12 inmates. While the program is inadequate to meet a large number of commitments, there are no long-range building plans for the program.

#### Diagnosis and Evaluation

Diagnosis and evaluation programs are currently in effect for men at Montana State Prison, women in Missoula County Jail, boys at Pine Hills School, girls at Mountain View School, and both boys and girls at the Youth Evaluation Center. D & E's are mainly provided as a service to courts to help improve dispositions and judgements of courts.

According to the Department, 45-day evaluation of female and male offenders is declining and only exceptional cases are evaluated. The Department would like to eliminate this service. The Department is also considering phasing out or restricting 45-day evaluations at the juvenile institutions. Fifty to sixty evaluations are done annually.

### Pre-Release Programs

These programs provide a method for easing the offender from the tight structure of the institution into less restrictive supervision and eventually to full release. During this process community resources are utilized to address the individual needs of the offender.

#### 1) Furlough program

The furlough program has been ongoing since 1976. Sixteen men were granted furloughs in 1977, six in 1979, and one in the first six months of 1980. The Division endorses the furlough concept but wants to change the current program to be more in line with the concept of furlough as an alternative release procedure.

Furlough applicants constitute approximately 20% of the total prison population, but only 1% or less of the population have been granted furloughs in the past 12 months. It is estimated by the Department that 5% of the prison population could be on furlough if the following changes in the program were made:

- a) Make the furlough program an administrative function.
- b) Consider changes to application procedures in the law to make release on furlough administrative.
- c) Establish a minimum time to be eligible for furlough.
- d) Make the furlough coordinator a full-time employee at the prison, where he would be available to write contracts for inmates.
- e) Study funding to support developmentally disabled prisoners in alternative living arrangements and pay for the necessary evaluation tests as a part of furlough.

#### 2) Missoula Life Skills Center

This program is a community-based halfway house for adult felons. It is designed to provide a transition between institutional care and parole supervision.

The capacity of the program is 16 male and/or female residents. There are two buildings so men and women may be housed separately, if the program was coed.

According to the Department, the facility of the Missoula Life Skills Center is in dire need of extensive repairs. Many of the necessary repairs will need to be completed in the near future if the Center is to remain at its current location. A preliminary cost estimate was completed by the State of Montana, Architecture and Engineering Division, in February of 1980,

including those items necessary to permit the Center's continued operation. The current condition of the facility is detrimental to the program and an immediate decision needs to be made as to the future of the program in the existing facility. The available options are set forth in order of preference:

- 1) Continue at the present location, making all the needed repairs and changes as listed in report from Architecture and Engineering Division.
- 2) Move from the present site to a more central location.
  - a) Lease or purchase an existing building to remodel to specifications.
  - b) Build a facility to meet the specific needs of an inmate population, with room to expand.

A recent inspection by a visiting member of the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections confirmed that the physical structure would not meet the health and safety requirements adopted by the American Correctional Association.

### 3) Pre-Release, Residential Program

This program provides an intermediate minimum security living arrangement for selected prisoners who are within six months of their parole eligibility. The Alpha House in Billings now provides this service.

The capacity of the current pre-release option in Billings is 24 residents of which up to 20 can come from Montana State Prison.

If a need for more pre-release programs develops, the preferred option by the Department is to purchase service from private vendors, or, if the state runs the program, to rent or lease a facility for at least sixteen residents rather than construct a new facility.

An appropriation is needed to purchase services on a continuing basis from the existing pre-release service provider (Alpha House). Other potential programs would be included in executive requests.

### Community Supervision

#### 1) Probation and Parole

Probation and parole is community-based supervision of adult felons sentenced by the courts or released by the Board of Pardons. It is the largest service, with a total caseload of about 2,250. Its officers also perform investigations and reports for district courts, the Board of Pardons, and the Department.

The Department is currently working on a report that will give an estimate of the manpower needs of the probation and parole program. Preliminary projections indicate that there are 28 line officers. An additional 16.5 FET will be needed in 1981 and 1.03 the following year.

The rate of change in the number of probationers and parolees under supervision has remained fairly stable since June 1978, with slow increases. At the current time there are 2,233 offenders under supervision; the average for FY 80 was about 2,210. It is estimated the caseload for FY 82 will be about 2,430, and 2,500 in FY 83. For the current number of line officers, the caseload average is 80. Without additional officers the average caseload in FY 82 will be 87 and 89 in FY 83.

The Department suggests the following statutory changes to make the field officers' job more manageable:

1. Amend 46-14-302 MCA to exclude Adult Probation and Parole from providing medical supervision. The Department is not trained, staffed or qualified to handle these cases.
2. Amend 46-17-301(3) MCA to exclude Adult Probation and Parole from supervising misdemeanants. The Department is not staffed to handle the potential volume of cases that could be assigned, nor does misdemeanor supervision appear to further correctional goals.
3. Amend 46-23-411 MCA regarding furlough release.
4. Sentencing guidelines should be revised to promote some uniformity throughout the state.
5. The Department's role in deferred prosecutions should be eliminated or defined by statute.

## 2) Aftercare

Aftercare is the community-based supervision of youths who are released from correctional programs or committed by the courts.

Aftercare caseloads are comprised of three components:

1. Youth committed and residing within the juvenile institutions. (Aftercare counselors work with each youth's family on a monthly basis while the youth is residing in the institution.)
2. Youths released from the institutions and residing in the community.
3. Youths committed to Aftercare for six months.

As with other youth programs, a stable population is expected for several years until the size of the at-risk group begins to increase. There appears, however, to be a shift in the population such that the youth are now more troubled and difficult than in the past. Due to this both six month commitments and high levels of treatment required for emotionally disturbed youth are expected to increase.

The Division of Corrections recommends that Legislation be enacted that provides Aftercare counselors with specific authority to detain Aftercare youths in appropriate situations.

There are 14 FTE's working in the field plus one FTE working with adults.

### 3) Youth Residential Programs

District Youth Guidance Homes are long-term residential services for youth offered by nonprofit corporations. There are nine District Youth Guidance Homes, located in Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Havre, Kalispell, Miles City, Missoula, Ronan and Shelby.

Juvenile probation officers do not have funds for placements in group homes; consequently S.R.S. is paying for juvenile probation placements.

### 4) Aftercare Group Homes

There are four aftercare group homes which are state-operated residential programs for youths who are committed to the Department of Institutions. They are community-based to help youth released from institutions or who are committed directly to the Department.

The homes have been licensed for 8 youths, however, according to the Department, experience has demonstrated that an efficient and manageable capacity is 7 youth.

If study indicates the Aftercare Group Homes should be state run rather than operate as a purchase of service, then the Department would recommend purchasing the group homes rather than paying escalating rent payments.

There are no state FTEs. All houseparents are contracted.

Two contracted-services people serve as houseparents. Substitute houseparents are obtained for regular houseparents' days off. The local Aftercare counselor serves as director of the group home.

There are special problems unique to contracted services which make it impossible to provide raises after long-term employment, which tends to increase the turnover of houseparents.

## 5) Shelter Care

Shelter Care is a program which has been funded in part by grant funds. It is an alternative to jail for certain juvenile offenders, and the service is provided by private vendors.

A stable population of youth who can be placed into Shelter Care as opposed to jail is anticipated as is the case in other youth programs.

The program has the following capacity:

Billings Childrens Receiving Home	15
Discovery House	8
Great Falls Receiving Home	14
Great Falls Attention Home	10
Helena Attention Home	8
Mission Valley Receiving Home	12
Missoula Attention Home	12
Park County Attention Home	4
Soroptimists Attention Home	11
Emergency Foster Homes	Varies

### Specialized Programs

Some segments of the offender population of both adults and juveniles require specialized attention due to extraordinary problems or disabilities. There are currently no programs designed to meet this need. A partial program solution for low functioning offenders who cannot cope with the demands of the "normal" world has been prepared. It is a grant proposal developed in conjunction with the Department of Labor and Industry to serve up to 20 offenders (adult and juvenile) and submitted by the Department of Labor to CETA TITLE III. It is designed to assist low functioning offenders in securing employment (perhaps in sheltered workshops), living, and training in daily living skills.

There are about 15 adults and 5 juveniles who require assistance each year and it is expected that this figure will remain fairly stable.

There appears to be a need to help the Mental Health Division in preparing an assessment of need for forensics that would help in dealing with the criminally insane, mentally ill, sex offender, and aggressive, dangerous persons.

According to the Department, a brief preliminary study at the prison indicated that perhaps as many as 80 inmates could benefit from forensic type services.

### Prison Industries

The prison industries produce the following products and services:

- 1) furniture renovation
- 2) new furniture for institutions
- 3) printing
- 4) sign manufacturing

The Department would like to 1) expand the authorized market for prison products to local governments and non-profit corporations; 2) explore the feasibility of developing a line of office furniture utilized by state and other agencies; 3) add new industry operations, and 4) develop a marketing program.

Table III shows the Department's projections of future demands for the industries program.

Table III  
Projections of Future Demand\*

Industries Positions Needed	Close II	Med I	Med II	Min	Total
June 1980	54	21	58	56	189
June 1981	58	23	60	58	199
June 1982	61	25	62	60	208
June 1983	62	27	65	62	216
June 1984	66	28	67	64	225

The existing capacity of the program is 144 work positions. The Department would like to expand the production capabilities to meet the anticipated increased need of at least 225 work positions.

### Safety Valve Legislation

The ability to plan for variations in prison population is one of the major reasons for long-range planning by the Department of Institutions. In its report the Department prepared plans for several alternatives to deal with most variations in prison population, but they do not guarantee that the plan will meet all future problems. The Department would like the Legislature to consider implementing "safety valve" legislation similar to

\* This is an excerpt of a more detailed table contained on page 84 of the Department of Institutions' Correctional Needs Report.

legislation developed in Oklahoma. This legislation would allow the corrections administrator to set the capacity of the prison based on legal square footage allotments for inmates. If that capacity were exceeded, several actions would occur:

1. The Board of Pardons would consider all nonviolent offenders for parole within the six months prior to their scheduled release from a correctional facility;
2. No inmate could be received by a correctional facility from a county jail without first scheduling a transfer to the custody of the Department; and,
3. The Department would reimburse any county that is required to retain an inmate pursuant to the act for the cost of feeding and the cost of any emergency medical care for physical injury or illness.

### III. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

At the final meeting of the Committee, recommendations were made concerning the direction of Montana's overall corrections policy and related correctional programs and facility needs. As was mentioned earlier in this report, the Committee commended the Correctional Needs Report from the Department of Institutions to the 47th Legislature for their consideration.

The Committee also recommended a major commitment be made to adult probation and parole. Throughout the corrections study the Committee observed that there was a need to provide a greater number of alternatives to incarceration. This move to increase the availability of community corrections means that there will be a greater drain on the resources of the adult probation and parole programs. An increase in the funding to these programs would help to reduce the potential strain on probation and parole resources. Also, this increased funding would potentially provide the opportunity for parolees to receive more attention from better qualified probation and parole officers. Currently, parolees are receiving an average of one hour of supervision per month. This practice reduces the opportunity for successful rehabilitation through supervision in the community.

In response to the charge to consider long-range prison needs, the Committee found that there is no immediate need for additional residential facilities at Montana State Prison, but recommends that, in the event the prison population warrants, careful consideration should be given to residential alternatives outside the prison. In addition, the Committee moved that work rehabilitation and job training be considered as worthwhile alternatives.

Finally, in accordance with the Committee's commitment to an increased emphasis on community corrections, it passed a motion that stated that this Committee views with alarm the increased incarceration rates.

MINORITY REPORT - BOARD OF VISITORS (LC 53)

I do not concur in the recommendation that LC 53 be commended to the 47th Legislature for the following reasons:

- (A) A Board of Visitors designed to safeguard the individual rights of inmates would only duplicate services currently being provided by:

The legal intern program from the law school of the University of Montana.

Qualified personnel within the Department of Institutions who are presently assigned this responsibility.

The continuing scrutiny of the legislature itself.

- (B) With the legal regulatory safeguards already built into the system a Board of Visitors would impede rather than assist those who hold the responsibility of operating Montana State Prison. The warden and his staff and indeed supervisory members of the Department of Institutions function continuously under the watchful eye of the legislature and the press as well as the various prison reform groups. There is clearly no demonstrated need for the creation of a Board of Visitors at this time.

Senator Stan Stephens

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## APPENDIX A

### RESEARCH MEMORANDUM\*

TO: Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs  
FROM: Kathleen Harrington, Staff Researcher  
DATE: October 2, 1979  
RE: Criminal Sentencing

The controversy concerning the preferred method for sentencing criminals has recently received considerable attention from all segments of the criminal justice process. The practice of indeterminate sentencing, the predominant method of sentencing since the mid-1800's, is currently being replaced in many states by determinate sentencing schemes. Just as traditional criminal sentencing practices are strongly criticized by some, they are also strongly defended by others. Some of the arguments for and against indeterminate and determinate sentencing are outlined below. Examples of recent changes in sentencing practices will be given and other alternatives will be outlined.

#### I. Indeterminate Sentencing

Indeterminate sentencing laws evolved as a method of fitting the punishment to the crime. Ideally, they provide the judge and/or correction officials with the discretion needed to place the offender in an environment that is best suited to the process of rehabilitation. Wide sentence ranges were built into such laws to allow the judge the opportunity to select the appropriate sentence for each offender.

The basic rationale behind indeterminate sentencing is the belief that offenders can be rehabilitated. The arguments for and against this method are listed below:

##### For

1) It provides an incentive for inmates to behave properly in prison and to rehabilitate themselves.

##### Against

1) Rehabilitation has not been successful. The determination that the individual has been rehabilitated is a difficult determination to make.

\*This memorandum has been revised for inclusion in this report.

For

- 2) The judge is able to individualize the sentence, taking into account the severity of the crime, risk to society, and chances for rehabilitation.
- 3) It allows for a reflection of changing public views on various crimes (i.e., greater flexibility).

Against

- 2) Indeterminate sentencing often results in a disparity in the sentences given to offenders who commit similar crimes.
- 3) The discretion given to paroling authorities to provide a method for relieving sentencing disparity has allegedly been abused by some parole systems.
- 4) The uncertainty of indeterminate sentencing leads to inmate frustration and violence.

## II. Determinate Sentencing

Determinate sentencing may appear under several different names and formats. The main feature of this approach is the statutorial limitation of the sentencing discretion of judges and correctional officials. This is achieved by limiting the applicable sentence to be imposed for different crimes and requiring that any sentence imposed be for a fixed number of years. The judge still has the discretion to utilize probation as an appropriate alternative. The rationale for this approach is retribution for crimes and deterrence of future criminal activity. For certain violent crimes incapacitation is the main purpose and this is accomplished by mandatory sentencing without parole.

The arguments for and against determinate sentencing are listed below:

For

- 1) infinite sentences are determined by judges and legislators. These individuals are more responsive to the public than are corrections authorities and parole boards.
- 2) Definite sentences would eliminate sentencing disparity.
- 3) Definite sentences would give more certainty to the release of prisoners, thus reducing inmate frustration and violence.

Against

- 1) Definite sentencing places more power in the hands of the prosecution and encourages plea bargaining.
- 2) It eliminates or restricts consideration of circumstances surrounding the crime.
- 3) The system is inflexible and could result in longer prison terms.
- 4) It may be a violation of constitutional rights.

Thirteen states have adopted laws that may be classified as determinate sentencing laws. They are:

Alaska	Indiana	North Carolina
Arizona	Maine	Pennsylvania
California	Minnesota	Tennessee (class x
Colorado	New Jersey	offenses, only)
Illinois	New Mexico	

There are three categories by which present determinate-sentencing laws are labeled. "Determinate-discretionary," a phrase coined by Michael Kannensohn of the Council of State Governments, describes a system in which there is a narrow range of sentences for each offense and the sentencing authority has discretion to select any sentence within that range but cannot go outside of it. The sentence must be for a fixed term. Probation or alternatives to prison are also options within the judge's discretion.

The second category is the presumptive sentence. A specific sentence is set by law for each offense but the sentence can be increased for aggravating factors or decreased for mitigating factors.

The third category involves sentencing guidelines. The court is given suggested sentencing options. The court is not bound by the options but it must give full consideration to them. When the judge sentences, any deviations from the guidelines must be accompanied by a written statement.

Some states have chosen to copy one of these sentencing categories while other states have drawn their statute from more than one category. Examples of recent determinate sentencing reforms are outlined in Part III.

### III. RECENT SENTENCING REFORMS \*

#### ALASKA

Sentencing Structure A sentence range is established for Class A, B and C felonies -- murder and kidnapping. Each range includes a maximum sentence limit; a minimum term is established for murder and kidnapping. The court must impose a definite term within the sentence range for the felony class. Presumptive terms are established in each class for prior convictions and within Class A for the use of a firearm. Aggravating and mitigating factors are listed and may increase or decrease the presumptive terms within the limits allowed by law. If the sentencing court finds that the presumptive term is not appropriate or unjustive will result in cases where aggravating and mitigating circumstances are not considered, the court must enter such findings in the record.

Use of a Firearm or of serious injury in the commission of a Class A offense results in a presumptive term of six years for a first offense other than for manslaughter. This compares to the ordinary range for a Class A felony of a definite term, selected by the judge, not to exceed 20 years.

Non-capital offenses. Presumptive sentence established by law for each class of offense, felony and misdemeanor. First time conviction for a Class 2 or 3 felony may be increased up to 100 percent for aggravating circumstances or reduced by 25 percent for mitigating circumstances; first time convictions for Class 4, 5 or 6 felonies may be increased up to 25 percent or reduced by 50 percent. Factual findings and reasons for sentence alterations must be stated in the record by the trial judge.

Use of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument or the intentional infliction of serious injury in the commission of a felony results in a mandatory fixed sentence. Prior convictions of a similar nature result in a longer sentence. A person sentenced under this section is not eligible for any type of release until a minimum amount of time is served. Minimum time served and the actual sentence vary depending on the class of the offense. The sentence may be altered depending on aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

\* Mary Fairchild, Determinate Sentencing Laws, A Comparison of the Provisions of State Determinate Sentencing Laws, The Criminal Justice Project of the National Conference of State Legislators, p. 9-21.

**ALASKA**

Habitual or Repeat Offenders      A presumptive term is established within the sentence range for Class A, B and C felonies for prior felony convictions that have occurred within seven years of the present offense. Different presumptive terms are applied to second and third felony convictions with each class, and vary depending on the felony class.

**Sentencing Authority****Trial Judge.****Sentence Review**

Creates a three-judge panel in the superior court to review where the sentencing court finds that injustice will result because of failure to consider aggravating and mitigating circumstances or because of imposition of the presumptive term. Upon majority agreement, the panel may resentence the defendant or remand the case.

**Parole Decision-making**

Every prisoner must serve at least 1/3 of the sentence imposed or the mandatory minimum where required by law before being released on parole. Discretion is then left to the parole board.

**ARIZONA**

Previous felony convictions result in a mandatory sentence. Length of sentence and minimum time to be served differ depending on the class of the present offense and the number of prior convictions.

**Trial Judge.**

No specific provision.

Limited discretion. Earliest parole eligibility occurs when half the sentence has been served, unless the law requires 2/3 of the sentence to be served before eligibility. Board can deny parole if it appears that the applicant will violate the law or is dangerous. Every person who has served one year is to be temporarily released 180 days prior to expiration of the actual sentence. Board has the power to grant absolute discharge.

**ALASKA**

Parole  
Supervision

No specific provision

Good time/  
Earned time

One day is awarded for every three  
days of good behavior

Department of Corrections  
retains control over parolee  
until the term of the sentence  
expires. Violations of parole  
result in a return to custody  
until the sentence expires.

Earned credits are accrued for  
those prisoners who are granted  
class one eligibility status and  
are granted at a rate of one day  
for every two days served. How-  
ever, if the sentence prohibits  
release until  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the sentence  
is served, earned credits are  
granted at a rate of one day for  
every three days served. Earned  
credits reduce the term of impris-  
onment but do not reduce the  
sentence for the purpose of  
eligibility.

**ARIZONA**

## CALIFORNIA

### Sentencing Structure

Applies to most felonies other than murder and kidnapping which carry life sentences. Most felonies carry a choice of three terms: low, middle and high. The judge must impose the middle term unless there are aggravating or mitigating circumstances. In addition to the base term, longer sentences termed "enhancements" are imposed for prior convictions, certain sex offenses, or if the crime was committed with a weapon or if great bodily harm occurred.

Establishes a presumptive range for each of the five classes of felonies. Class I felonies are unaffected by the new sentencing scheme and encompass only the crimes for which the punishment is life imprisonment or death. Absent extraordinary aggravating or mitigating circumstances, the maximum sentence for a Class 5 felony is one year. The sentencing court is to sentence within the appropriate presumptive range for a fixed term. A sentence within the range must take into account: the nature and elements of the offense; the character and record of the offender; and mitigating and aggravating circumstances. If the court finds extraordinary mitigating or aggravating circumstances, it may impose a sentence which is lesser or greater than the presumptive range, but the sentence cannot be more than twice the maximum or less than one-half the minimum term authorized. When a court does impose a sentence in a extraordinary case, it must make written findings detailing the extraordinary circumstances justifying the variance from the presumptive range.

Results in a one-year sentence enhancement if the person was armed with a firearm or a cohort in the crime was armed with a firearm. A two-year enhancement is applied if the person uses a firearm in the commission of the crime. This section does not apply if a firearm is an element of the offense.

## COLORADO

Establishes a presumptive range for each of the five classes of felonies. Class I felonies are unaffected by the new sentencing scheme and encompass only the crimes for which the punishment is life imprisonment or death. Absent

extraordinary aggravating or mitigating circumstances, the maximum sentence for a Class 5 felony is one year. The sentencing court is to sentence within the appropriate presumptive range for a fixed term. A sentence within the range must take into account: the nature and elements of the offense; the character and record of the offender; and mitigating and aggravating circumstances. If the court finds extraordinary mitigating or aggravating circumstances, it may impose a sentence which is lesser or greater than the presumptive range, but the sentence cannot be more than twice the maximum or less than one-half the minimum term authorized. When a court does impose a sentence in a extraordinary case, it must make written findings detailing the extraordinary circumstances justifying the variance from the presumptive range.

Existing law is not affected. Existing law provides that a mandatory minimum within the presumptive range is to be imposed for the use of a deadly weapon in the commission of certain crimes.

## CALIFORNIA

Habitual or Repeat Offenders

Violent present offenses plus violent prior convictions committed within 10 years where a prison term was served results in a 3-year enhancement. Other prior convictions committed within five years where a prison term was served result in a one-year enhancement.

Existing habitual offender statute is not affected. Existing law provides that 2 prior convictions within 10 years of the present offense result in a term of imprisonment of not less than 25 years or more than 50 years for certain felonies. Three or more prior convictions result in a term of life imprisonment.

### Sentencing Authority

#### Sentence Review

Sentence is reviewed by parole authority no later than one year after the sentence is imposed, and parole may recommend that the offender be resentenced if parole authority determines the sentence is disparate.

### Trial Judge.

## COLORADO

Existing habitual offender statute is not affected. Existing law provides that 2 prior convictions within 10 years of the present offense result in a term of imprisonment of not less than 25 years or more than 50 years for certain felonies. Three or more prior convictions result in a term of life imprisonment.

### Trial Judge.

When the sentence imposed is lesser or greater than the presumptive range, the court of appeals automatically reviews the propriety of the sentence in a nonadversary proceeding. The court of appeals may affirm the sentence or remand the case for resentencing.

### Parole Decision-making

Authority to waive parole supervision and to set conditions and length of parole up to maximum period provided by law.

A one-year period of parole is included for each felony classification to be supervised by the division of adult services in the department of corrections. Conditions of parole continue to be established by the state board of parole.

CALIFORNIA

Parole  
Supervision

Authority to waive parole supervision and to set conditions and length of parole up to maximum period provided by law.

Good time/  
Earned time

Sentences may be reduced by 1/3 for participation in prison programs and if conduct is consistent with the rules of the institution.

COLORADO

A one-year period of parole is included for each felony classification to be supervised by the division of adult services in the department of corrections. Conditions of parole continue to be established by the state board of parole.

Fifteen days a month for substantial conformance with institution rules and regulations. The good time is to vest quarterly. Earned time, not to exceed fifteen days for every six months of incarceration, may be deducted from the sentence for outstanding progress in the categories of work and training, group living, counseling and meeting established goals and programs.

## ILLINOIS

### Sentencing Structure

Sentencing different sentence ranges for murder, Class X felonies and for each of four felony classes. A sentence imposed must be determinate within the range specified for the particular offense. Class X felonies include aggravated kidnapping, rape, deviate sexual assault, heinous battery, armed robbery, aggravated arson and treason. The sentence range for Class X felonies is not less than six and not more than 30 years imprisonment. Aggravating and mitigating factors can be considered, and the court is to include the reasons for imposing a particular sentence in the record. If aggravating factors are found a sentence may be imposed from a set of extended ranges established by law for different offenses. The extended range for a Class X offense is 30-60 years imprisonment.

### Use of a Firearm

Use of certain dangerous weapons in the commission of any felony is a Class X offense.

### Habitual or Repeat Offenders

A person twice convicted of specified crimes: treason, murder, rape, deviate sexual assault, armed robbery, aggravated arson, or aggravated kidnapping for ransom, and is thereafter convicted of any one of these crimes committed after the two prior convictions, receives mandatory life sentence and is not eligible for parole. A person convicted of a Class 1 or Class 2 felony who has 2 prior Class 1 or Class 2 convictions is sentenced as a Class X offender. These sections are not retroactive prior to the effective date of the act.

## INDIANA

### Establishes fixed terms within each of four felony classes and for murder. Fixed terms can be increased for aggravating circumstances or decreased for mitigating circumstances within the limits allowed by law for each felony class.

### No specific provision.

For two prior unrelated felony convictions, an additional fixed term of 30 years is to be imposed. However, if 10 or more years have elapsed since discharge from the sentence for the last felony conviction, the court may subtract up to 25 years from the additional fixed term. If a reduction is authorized, the court may consider aggravating or mitigating circumstances to determine if a reduction should be granted and what the reduction should be (amended 1980).

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

Trial Court.

Sentencing Authority

Upon appeal, the appellate court may modify a sentence imposed where appropriate.

Parole Decision-making  
Abolishes Parole and Pardon Board and creates the Prisoner Review Board. Retains power of parole only over persons sentenced to an indeterminate term before the new act. Establishes convictions for parole and mandatory release; reviews revocation or suspension of good conduct credits over 30 days in cases of prisoner misconduct.

Parole Supervision  
Every sentence must include the mandatory supervised release term specified by law for each type of felony offense.

Good time/  
Earned time

Except for life sentences; good time credit, which accrues on a monthly basis, is awarded one day for every one day served and is to be deducted from the sentence. The Director of the Department of Corrections may award up to 90 days additional credit for meritorious conduct. No prisoner can be penalized more than one year of credit for any one infraction.

Trial Court.

No specific provision.

Board has power to revoke parole, to reinstate parole, and to insure discharges from parole. Offender must serve the length of the fixed sentence less credit time before being released on parole.

Supervision is limited to the amount of time before the fixed term expires, not to exceed one year.

Establishes three classes of credit time. All persons are initially assigned to Class I and may be reassigned to a lower class for institutional violations. Credit time accrues as follows: Class I, 1 day for every 1 day served; Class II, 1 day for every 2 days served; and Class III, no credit time.

MAINE

Sentencing  
Structure

Murder results in a minimum prison term of 25 years. Other crimes are divided into five classes and a maximum term is established for each class. Maximum terms increase according to the seriousness of the offense. The court is mandated to set a definite period of imprisonment not to exceed the maximum amount.

NEW JERSEY

A sentence range is established for each of four degrees of crimes. The sentence imposed must be a fixed term within the appropriate range and the court is to state on record the reasons for imposing a particular sentence. For first and second degree crimes, the court may fix a minimum term within the limits of law during which the person is not eligible for parole. An extended sentence range for murder, first, second and third degree crimes is also established and may be imposed if certain circumstances exist. Again, the court may fix a minimum term within the limits of the law. Further, the law establishes a presumptive term for each of the four degrees of crimes to be imposed if a sentence of imprisonment is proper. The sentence can be increased for aggravating factors. If mitigating factors outweigh aggravating factors in first or second degree crimes, the court may sentence the defendant to a term that is one degree lower. Such sentence is not final for 10 days in order to permit appeal by the prosecution.

## MAINE

## NEW JERSEY

If the State proves that a Class B, C, D or E crime was committed with the use of a dangerous weapon, the sentencing class is one class higher. Minimum terms of imprisonment are established for Class A, B, C and D crimes committed with the use of a firearm. Sentences imposed under this section cannot be suspended.

Habitual or Repeat Offenders

No specific provision.

Sentencing Authority

No specific provision.

Removed. Prisoners are to be unconditionally released at the expiration of the term, less good time.

No specific provision.

Two previous felony convictions within 10 years of the present offense are the criteria for imposing a sentence within the extended range.

Trial court.

No specific provision.

Must compute a parole eligibility date within 90 days after the sentence begins. Most inmates become eligible for parole after serving nine months of the sentence; exceptions are made for special offenders. Power to increase eligibility date for infractions and decrease eligibility date for exceptional progress. Inmates to be released at that date for exceptional progress. Inmates to be released at that date unless the inmate is likely to commit a crime. Inmates are never eligible for parole before serving the minimum term, when imposed.

MAINE

Parole  
Supervision

Removed.

NEW JERSEY

For most inmates, parole supervision amounts to the balance of the maximum term, less good time, and/or earned time.

Good time/  
Earned time

Prisoners sentenced to a term over six months are awarded good time credits at a rate of 10 days for every month served. Sentences six months or less are awarded three days good time for every month served. An additional two days a month may be awarded for work or other duties.

For first offenders, good time may be awarded at a varying rate which starts at one-fifth of the original sentence for a one-year sentence, but which increases for longer sentences. Earned time never exceeds one day for each five days of productive occupation.

Sentencing  
Structure

NEW MEXICO

Non-capital offenses. Presumptive-fixed sentence established by law for each class of offense. Alteration for aggravating and mitigating circumstances cannot exceed 1/3 of the basic sentence. Firearm or prior convictions cannot be considered as an aggravating circumstance. Court may impose a fine in addition to the basic sentence for certain classes of offenses.

NORTH CAROLINA

Non-capital offenses (Class A and B felonies are excluded). Presumptive terms established by law for eight classes of felonies. Within each class, different terms are established for offenders with prior felony convictions. Maximum terms of imprisonment to be served in a jail or the state prison and fines are established for all 10 classes of felonies. The judge must impose the presumptive term unless aggravating or mitigating circumstances exist. If the judge deviates from the presumptive term, findings of fact regarding the alteration must be recorded.

## NEW MEXICO

Use of Firearm  
Habitual or Repeat Offenders  
Considered as a separate issue in sentencing. Use of a firearm in the commission of a crime can result in an increase to the basic sentence which is served first and cannot be suspended or deferred.

Considered as a separate issue. One prior felony conviction will result in an additional four years; and three or more priors result in eight additional years imprisonment. Sentences under this provision cannot be suspended or deferred.

Sentencing Authority	Trial Judge.
Sentence Review	No special provision.

Parole Decision-making	Removed.
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## NORTH CAROLINA

Special provision for prior felony convictions with the use of a deadly weapon within seven years of the present offense. A sentence of at least 14 years is to be imposed and is to be served at the state prison. The offender must serve at least seven years excluding gained time. A person sentenced under this section cannot be sentenced as a youthful offender and is not eligible for probation. Sentence to be served consecutively and to begin after the expiration of the sentence imposed for the present offense.

Trial Judge.

If a defendant has been found guilty and the sentence exceeds the presumptive term, the defendant is entitled to appeal as a "matter of right" to determine whether the sentence is supported by the evidence introduced.

(Other than Class A or B felonies and youthful offenders.) Parole commission must parole each prisoner serving a term of 18 months or more 90 days before the expiration of the term less credit time for time already served, good time and gained time. The prisoner can refuse to accept parole and remain in prison or jail until the expiration of the term at which time he will be unconditionally discharged.

MINNESOTA

PENNSYLVANIA

Sentencing Authority

Trial Judge. Separate sentencing hearing must be held upon request of the defendant or the State. Court to issue written findings of fact and conclusions of law and enter an appropriate order.

Sentence Review

Appeal to the Supreme Court for any sentence imposed or stayed may be brought by the defendant or the State. Supreme Court may review to determine whether the sentence is inconsistent with the law, unreasonable, inappropriate, excessive, disparate or not warranted based on the findings of fact.

Parole Decision-making

Corrections board to promulgate rules for the placement and supervision of inmates on parole. Power to revoke parole and place the offender back in the institution for an amount of time not to exceed the time remaining in the sentence.

Parole Supervision

Every prisoner is to serve a period to the amount of good time accrued and not to exceed the amount of time remaining in the sentence. A person serving a life sentence is not eligible for release until he has served a minimum of 17 years.

Trial Judge.

No specific provision. Existing parole law is not affected.

No specific provision in the new law.

## MINNESOTA

### Sentencing Structure

Effective May 1, 1980. Establishes a sentencing commission to develop advisory sentencing guidelines for use by the district court. Guidelines to establish: (1) circumstances where imprisonment is proper, and (2) a presumptive, fixed sentence scheme. The guidelines may provide a 15 percent increase or decrease in the presumptive sentence. If the court deviates from the presumptive sentence, the judge is required to make written findings of fact regarding the alteration.

### Use of a Firearm

Present law not affected which provides that minimum terms established for certain crimes in which a firearm was used in the commission of the offense.  
(See MN Stats. 609.11)

### Habitual or Repeat Offenders

Prior felony convictions for certain offenses occurring within 15 years of the present offense will result in a prison term of not less than three years or more than the maximum sentence provided by law for the present offense.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Establishes the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to develop advisory guidelines to be used by the court to determine the appropriate sentence for felonies and misdemeanors. The guidelines must: (1) specify a range of sentences for different degrees of crimes; (2) specify a range of sentences of increased severity for repeat offenders or for crimes committed with the use of a deadly weapon; and (3) prescribe variations from the range of sentences for aggravating and mitigating circumstances. The judge must indicate in a written statement the reasons for any sentence imposed. The guidelines become effective 90 days after they are submitted to the legislature unless, by concurrent resolution, the legislature rejects them in their entirety.

(See above; also included in the interim guidelines described below.)

A minimum term of four years imprisonment is established as an interim guideline to be considered by the court for some repeat offenders. The guideline applies to certain crimes, particularly crimes against the person, and is to be used when the offender has prior convictions for similar crimes.

**MINNESOTA**

Sentencing Authority

Trial Judge. Separate sentencing hearing must be held upon request of the defendant or the State. Court to issue written findings of fact and conclusions of law and enter an appropriate order.

Sentence Review

Appeal to the Supreme Court for any sentence imposed or stayed may be brought by the defendant or the State. Supreme Court may review to determine whether the sentence is inconsistent with the law, unreasonable, inappropriate, excessive, disparate or not warranted based on the findings of fact.

Parole Decision-making

Corrections board to promulgate rules for the placement and supervision of inmates on parole. Power to revoke parole and place the offender back in the institution for an amount of time not to exceed the time remaining in the sentence.

Parole Supervision

Every prisoner is to serve a period to the amount of good time accrued and not to exceed the amount of time remaining in the sentence. A person serving a life sentence is not eligible for release until he has served a minimum of 17 years.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Trial Judge.

No specific provision. Existing parole law is not affected.

No specific provision. Existing parole law is not affected.

No specific provision in the new law.

**MINNESOTA****PENNSYLVANIA**

Good time/  
Earned time

One day for every two days served. Good time reductions determine the period of supervised release to be served by the inmate. Good time earned prior to disciplinary violations cannot be forfeited, but the inmate may be required to serve an additional portion of his term after the violation without earning good time. Additional time served cannot result in a loss of more than 90 days good time. Mandatory life sentence excluded.

No specific provision in the new law.

Sentencing  
Structure

Classified eleven serious felonies as "Class X" offenses. These include murder, aggravated kidnapping, certain sex crimes, aggravated robbery and certain drug offenses. Minimum sentences, or in some cases a range of sentences, are established for each offense. Only "Class X" sentences must be determinate within the limits prescribed by law for each offense and are not subject to credits for sentence reduction. (Class X offenses also require a mandatory sentence. Other offenses are in a non-mandatory indeterminate structure.)

Use of a  
Firearm

No specific provision except that certain offenses are placed within the Class X category by virtue of the use of a deadly weapon in their commission.

Habitual  
or Repeat  
Offenders

No general provision, however, habitual drug offenders are defined and placed within the Class X category.

NOTE: Missouri has recently revised its criminal code, and according to §557.038 the court will decide the extent and duration of the sentence and impose a sentence of a term of years within the prescribed limits of each felony class.

TENNESSEE

Sentencing Authority	Present law not affected. Jury is to impose sentence.
Sentence Review	No special provision.
Parole Decision-making	Every person sentenced under the Class X scheme must serve 40 percent of the determinate sentence imposed before becoming eligible for release classification status. Discretion as to release is then determined by the administrative authority responsible for pardon, parole and release recommendation.
Parole Supervision	A minimum of three years supervised release is required of all Class X offenders.
Good time/ Earned time	No specific provision but record of the offender is taken into consideration in determining release classification status. Failure to conform behavior to acceptable standards may result in delaying eligibility for release classification status.

## APPENDIX B

December 21, 1980

TO: Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Facility Needs  
FROM: Kathleen Harrington, Staff Researcher  
RE: Sentencing Data

On October 12, 1979, the Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs requested a compilation of data on current sentencing practices in Montana. The Committee specifically requested statistics from the Department of Institutions concerning:

- 1) the crime committed
- 2) the sentence imposed, and
- 3) the actual length of incarceration for the crime.

Since these data would be used to establish presumptive sentences based on the actual average time of incarceration, the Committee should recognize some problems that would be encountered were these data applied to that purpose.

The current policy for sentencing in Montana provides a mandate for individualized sentences. This mandate, together with the sentencing provisions of the laws of Montana, has created a sentencing practice that is counter to the changes that are currently being considered by the Committee. Available data reflect current sentencing and correctional policies, so the limitations of these data should be examined.

The sentencing provisions of the Montana Code Annotated emphasize the rehabilitation of the individual criminal. 46-18-101 MCA states:

This chapter shall be liberally construed to the end that persons convicted of crime shall be dealt with in accordance with their individual characteristics, circumstances, needs, and potentialities; that dangerous offenders shall be correctively treated in custody for long terms as needed; and that other offenders shall be dealt with by probation, suspended sentence, or fine, whenever such disposition appears practicable and not detrimental to the needs of public safety and the welfare of the individual.

With the elimination of minimum sentences and the establishment of fairly high maximum sentences, the 1973 Criminal Code permitted the judge considerable discretion in fixing sentences. This discretion is contained in the sentencing mandate that directs the court to fit the punishment to the criminal rather than the crime. Although some mandatory minimum sentences were enacted in 1977, the length of present sentences remains potentially a product of the judge's perception of the individual's threat to society rather than the judge's perception of the seriousness of the crime committed.

In addition to the impact of individualized terms of imprisonment, the Committee should also recognize the various sentencing alternatives available to the judge. He can:

- 1) release the defendant on probation;
- 2) defer imposition of the sentence for as long as 3 years;
- 3) suspend imposition of the sentence;
- 4) impose a fine as provided by law for that offense;
- 5) commit the defendant to a correctional institution; and
- 6) impose a combination of any or all of the above alternatives.

When a judge suspends or defers a sentence he may be acknowledging the fact that the criminal does not pose a threat to society and that rehabilitation or restitution is accomplished best in the community. The Department of Institution's profile of prisoners at the Montana State Prison describes the typical prisoner as poorly educated, without family ties and in need of alcoholic counseling. This individual has a limited potential for success in society and thus he poses a greater risk to society than a less troubled individual. If deferred or suspended sentences are eliminated, the immediate impact on the prison system will be increased numbers of incarcerated offenders. One way to lessen this impact is to have shorter sentences, thus reflecting the percentage of suspended or deferred sentences that are currently being given.

The state's sentencing policy instructs the judge to consider aggravating and mitigating factors when sentencing. By doing so, without completely restricting the judge, this policy has increased the potential for disparity in the system. The use of a weapon, prior felony convictions, or the fact that the individual is under eighteen years of age are examples of some overt restrictions on the judge. Many other factors exist which the judge probably takes into account but which are not readily identifiable. These factors are built into current sentences and the disparity in sentences are, in part, a function of the variation in perception of these factors by individual judges. These variations cannot be completely controlled. Yet to use current Department of Institutions statistics without some attempt to control the variations could result in merely compounding current injustices.

Once an individual has been incarcerated, the state's correctional policies begin to influence the length of time served. One of the more variable factors in the corrections system is good-time allowance. Good-time allowance is credited daily. Each day the length of the prisoner's sentence is decreased through credit earned, remains the same, or is increased by the revocation of earned credit. Good-time allowance exerts an impact on the length of sentences, but the impact varies with an individual's desire to earn the allowance and with the opportunities available for earning the allowance. The opportunities for participation in prison programs are limited at this time.

Other states became aware of the problems associated with setting fixed sentences when they attempted to incorporate good-time provisions into new sentencing policies. When California set its presumptive sentences the legislature estimated that nearly all prisoners would receive maximum good-time credit and in addition double counted good-time credit by adopting the median sentence served. The reason that double counting occurs is that good-time credit was included in the median sentence and since good-time also can be earned under the new code, it was double counted. If an attempt is made to avoid the problems encountered by California, the variation of sentence lengths produced by good-time credit cannot be taken into account since the accounting of good time is not on the computers at the Department of Institutions.

The Montana laws contain other provisions that will affect the time served. The persistent-felony-offender classification would lengthen the time in prison and the credit for time served prior to conviction could lessen the time in the Montana State Prison. Any changes in these provisions should be reflected in the length of the new sentences.

Finally, correctional policies influence the determination of sentence length through the use of parole. In Montana, a convict serving a time sentence may not be paroled until he has served at least one-half of his full term, less the good-time allowance. If he is designated a nondangerous offender then he may be paroled after he has served the 17-1/2 years. The designation of a non-dangerous offender is a new mandate, and the Department of Institutions is currently in the process of contacting judges to confirm the judges' actions regarding this designation. After an individual is released on parole, his parole may be revoked. This aspect of parole poses a problem for gathering data.

If the Committee wishes to set a typical sentence for a crime, then it must decide whether to measure the time to the first possible release or the time to final release. If there are many parole violators, the median time to final release is likely to be appreciably longer than the median time to first release. According to Daniel Nagin in his analysis of California's determinate sentence,

The question of which is the appropriate measure of central tendency - time to first release or time to final release raises a difficult philosophical question. If the additional time spent in prison because of a parole revocation is viewed as a punishment for parole violation, then time to first release is appropriate. If the parole is viewed as a conditional pardon, however, time spent in prison subsequent to parole revocation can be regarded as punishment for the initial offense for which the individual was incarcerated. In this case, a measure of time in prison to final release is more appropriate.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to asking the Committee to consider the limitations of present data, the reason for using the average (i.e. mean) sentence currently being served as a basis for the new sentences might be questioned. Other measures of central tendency could be used. The median, which is the 50th percentile of the sentencing distribution, was used as the choice of the typical sentence in California. In California this meant that the penalties that were selected were shorter than they would have been if the mean prison term had been selected. Even so, a substantial increase appeared in the California prison population. The other measure of central tendency is the mode, the sentence most frequently served. If the Committee is concerned with the disparity that currently is in the system, then you may want to consider using the mode.

Thus, the choice of an average sentence will be complicated by the influence of current sentencing practices by the restrictions of correctional policies on length of time served in prison, and by the limitations of data currently stored in the Department of Institutions' computers. Some of the impact of these factors can be controlled statistically, but we won't be in a position to determine how this is to be done until the Committee decides on what changes it wishes to make in the sentencing laws.

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1. Daniel Nagin, "The Impact of Determinate Sentencing, Legislation on Prison Population and Sentence Length; A California Case Study." Public Policy, Vol. 27, No. 1, (Winter 1979) p. 89.

## APPENDIX C\*

### PROPOSED LEGISLATION

\* Appendix C contains nine bills that were recommended to the 47th Legislature by the Committee and two bills that were referred to the 47th Legislature without recommendation (LC 32 and LC 54).



1                       ----- BILL NO. -----  
2   INTRODUCED BY -----  
3                       BY REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS  
4                       POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS WITH NO RECOMMENDATION  
5  
6   A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ELIMINATE THE  
7   PROVISION THAT AN OFFENDER SERVING A TIME SENTENCE MAY BE  
8   PAROLED AFTER SERVING 17 1/2 YEARS; AMENDING SECTION  
9   46-23-201, MCA."  
10  
11   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
12                       Section 1. Section 46-23-201, MCA, is amended to read:  
13                       "46-23-201. Prisoners eligible for parole. (1) Subject  
14                       to the following restrictions, the board shall release on  
15                       parole by appropriate order any person confined in the  
16                       Montana state prison, except persons under sentence of death  
17                       and persons serving sentences imposed under 46-13-202(2),  
18                       when in its opinion there is reasonable probability that the  
19                       prisoner can be released without detriment to himself or to  
20                       the community:  
21                       (a) No convict serving a time sentence may be paroled  
22                       until he has served at least one-half of his full term, less  
23                       the good time allowance provided for in 53-30-105; except  
24                       that a convict designated as a nondangerous offender under  
25                       46-18-404 may be paroled after he has served one-quarter of

1 his full term, less the good time allowance provided for in  
2 53-30-105. Any offender--serving--a--time--sentence--may--be  
3 paroled--after--he--has--served--upon--his--term--of--sentence,  
4 ~~17-1/2-years\*~~

5 (b) No convict serving a life sentence may be paroled  
6 until he has served 30 years, less the good time allowance  
7 provided for in 53-30-105.

8 (2) A parole shall be ordered only for the best  
9 interests of society and not as an award of clemency or a  
10 reduction of sentence or pardon. A prisoner shall be placed  
11 on parole only when the board believes that he is able and  
12 willing to fulfill the obligations of a law-abiding  
13 citizen."

-End-

1                       BILL NO. -----

2 INTRODUCED BY -----

3                       BY REQUEST OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS POLICY

4                       AND FACILITY NEEDS

5

6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PLEA  
7 AGREEMENT PROCEDURE."

8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10                       Section 1. Plea agreement. (1) The prosecuting  
11 attorney and the attorney for the defendant (or the  
12 defendant when acting pro se) may engage in discussions to  
13 reach an agreement that, upon entry of a plea of guilty to a  
14 charged offense or to a lesser or related offense, the  
15 prosecuting attorney shall:

16                       (a) move for a dismissal of other charges;

17                       (b) make a recommendation or refrain from opposing the  
18 defendant's request for a specified sentence, with the  
19 understanding that such a recommendation or request does not  
20 bind the court; or

21                       (c) agree that a specific sentence is the appropriate  
22 disposition of the case.

23                       (2) The court may not participate in the plea  
24 agreement discussions.

25                       Section 2. Hearing of agreement. If a plea agreement

1 has been reached by the parties, the court shall hear the  
2 agreement upon arraignment. The agreement must be heard in  
3 open court and entered, except that on a showing of good  
4 cause, it may be heard in camera and off the record.  
5 Thereupon, the court may accept or reject the agreement or  
6 may defer its decision as to the acceptance or rejection  
7 until there has been an opportunity to consider the  
8 presentence report.

9       Section 3. Acceptance of a plea agreement. If the  
10 court accepts the plea agreement, the court shall inform the  
11 defendant that it will include in the judgment and the  
12 sentence the disposition provided for in the plea agreement.

13       Section 4. Rejection of plea agreement. If the court  
14 rejects the plea agreement, the court shall, on the record,  
15 inform the parties of this fact. The court shall:

16           (a) advise the defendant in open court or, on a  
17 showing of good cause, in camera, that the court is not  
18 bound by the plea agreement;

19           (b) afford the defendant the opportunity to then  
20 withdraw his plea; or

21           (c) advise the defendant that if he persists in his  
22 guilty plea, the disposition of the case may be less  
23 favorable to the defendant than that contemplated by the  
24 plea agreement.

25       Section 5. Inadmissibility of pleas, offers of pleas,

1 and related statements -- exception. (1) Except as otherwise  
2 provided in this section, evidence of any of the following  
3 is not admissible in any civil or criminal proceedings  
4 against the person who made the plea or offer:

5 (a) a plea of guilty, later withdrawn;

6 (b) an offer to plead guilty to the crime charged or  
7 any other crime; or

8 (c) statements made in connection with and relevant to  
9 any of the pleas or offers.

10 (2) Evidence of a statement made in connection with  
11 and relevant to either of the following is admissible in a  
12 criminal proceeding for perjury or false swearing if the  
13 statement was made by the defendant under oath, on the  
14 record, and in the presence of counsel:

15 (a) a plea of guilty, later withdrawn; or

16 (b) an offer to plead guilty to the crime charged or  
17 any other crime.

18 Section 6. Determining accuracy of plea.  
19 Notwithstanding the acceptance of a plea of guilty, the  
20 court may not enter a judgment upon such plea without making  
21 such inquiry as shall satisfy it that there is a factual  
22 basis for the plea.

23 Section 7. Record of proceedings. A verbatim record of  
24 the proceedings at which the defendant enters a plea shall  
25 be made and, if there is a plea of guilty, the record shall

1 include, without limitation, the court's advice to the  
2 defendant, the inquiry into the voluntariness of the plea  
3 including any plea agreement, and the inquiry into the  
4 accuracy of a guilty plea.

5           Section 8. Codification. Sections 1 through 7 are  
6 intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 46,  
7 chapter 12, and the provisions of Title 46, chapter 12,  
8 apply to sections 1 through 7.

-End-

1                       ----- BILL NO. -----  
2   INTRODUCED BY -----  
3                       BY REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON  
4                       CORRECTIONS POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS  
5  
6   A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW THE STATE TO  
7   REQUEST AN APPELLATE REVIEW OF THE DISPOSITION, WHETHER BY  
8   IMPOSITION OR DEFERRED IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE, OF A CRIMINAL  
9   CASE FOLLOWING A VERDICT OR PLEA OF GUILTY; AMENDING  
10   SECTIONS 46-18-903 THROUGH 46-18-905, MCA."

11  
12   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13                       Section 1. Section 46-18-903, MCA, is amended to read:  
14  
15                       "46-18-903. Application for review. (1) ~~Any defendant~~  
16                       upon\_a\_verdict\_or\_a\_plea\_of\_guilty,\_a person has been  
17                       sentenced to a term of 1 year or more in the state prison by  
18                       any court of competent jurisdiction and disposition has been  
19                       made ~~by\_imposition\_or\_deferred\_imposition\_of\_sentence,~~ the  
20                       defendant ~~or~~ ~~on behalf of the state,~~ the attorney general  
21                       may within 60 days from the date ~~such\_sentence\_was\_imposed~~  
22                       of disposition, except in any case in which a different  
23                       sentence disposition could not have been imposed made, file  
24                       with the clerk of the district court in the county in which  
25                       judgment was rendered an application for review of the  
                             sentence disposition by the review division. Upon imposition

1       of-the-sentence disposition, the clerk shall give written  
2       notice to the person--sentenced defendant of his right to  
3       make such a request. Such notice shall include a statement  
4       that review of the sentencee court's disposition may result  
5       in decrease-or-increase-of-the-sentence a\_lesser\_or\_greater  
6       sanction within limits fixed by law.

7               (2) The clerk shall transmit such application to the  
8       review division and shall notify the judge who--imposed--the  
9       sentence making--the--disposition--the--defendant, and the  
10      county attorney of the county in which the sentencee--was  
11      imposed disposition--occurred. Such judge may transmit to the  
12      review division a statement of his reasons for imposing--the  
13      sentencee the\_disposition\_of\_the\_case and shall transmit such  
14      a statement within 7 days if requested to do so by the  
15      review division.

16               (3) The review division may for cause shown consider  
17       any late request for review of sentencee disposition and may  
18       grant such request.

19               (4) The filing of an application for review shall not  
20       stay the execution of the a sentence."

21               Section 2. Section 46-18-904, MCA, is amended to read:  
22               "46-18-904. Procedure upon review. (1) In each case in  
23       which an application for review is filed in accordance with  
24       46-18-903, the review division shall review the judgment so  
25       far as it relates to the sentencee-imposed disposition\_of\_the

1 case, either increasing or decreasing the penalty sanction,  
2 and any other sentence sanction imposed on the person at the  
3 same time and may order such different sentence-or-sentences  
4 to-be-imposed disposition as could have been imposed made at  
5 the time of the imposition court's disposition of the  
6 sentence case under review or may decide that the sentence  
7 disposition under review should stand.

8 (2) In reviewing any judgment, said division may  
9 require the production of presentence reports and any other  
10 records, documents, or exhibits relevant to such review  
11 proceedings. The appellant defendant may appear and be  
12 represented by counsel, and the state may be represented by  
13 the county attorney of the county in which the sentence--was  
14 imposed disposition occurred.

15 (3) If the review division orders a different sentence  
16 disposition, the court sitting in any convenient county  
17 shall resentence--the---defendant make--such--different  
18 disposition as ordered by the review division. Time served  
19 on the a sentence reviewed shall be deemed to have been  
20 served on the a sentence substituted."

21 Section 3. Section 46-18-905, MCA, is amended to read:

22 "46-18-905. Decision -- finality, report of. (1) The  
23 decision of the review division in each case shall be final,  
24 and the reasons for such decision shall be stated therein.  
25 The original of each decision shall be sent to the clerk of

1       the court for the county in which the judgment was rendered,  
2       and a copy shall be sent to the judge who imposed--the  
3       sentence ~~made the disposition~~ reviewed, the person-sentenced  
4       defendant, ~~the prosecuting attorney~~, and the principal  
5       officer of the institution in which he is confined.

6                     (2) The decision shall be reported in the Montana  
7       Reports."

-End-

1                   ----- BILL NO. -----

2 INTRODUCED BY -----

3                   BY REQUEST OF

4                   COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS

5  
6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO INCREASE TO 5 YEARS  
7 THE MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR DEFERRED IMPOSITION OF A SENTENCE FOR  
8 A FELONY; AMENDING SECTION 46-18-201, MCA."

9  
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11                 Section 1. Section 46-18-201, MCA, is amended to read:  
12                 "46-18-201. Sentences that may be imposed. (1)  
13 Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a  
14 verdict or a plea of guilty, the court may:

15                 (a) defer imposition of sentence, excepting sentences  
16 for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, for a  
17 period not exceeding 1 year for any misdemeanor or for a  
18 period not exceeding 3 ½ years for any felony. The  
19 sentencing judge may impose upon the defendant any  
20 reasonable restrictions or conditions during the period of  
21 the deferred imposition. Such reasonable restrictions or  
22 conditions may include:

- 23                 (i) jail base release;  
24                 (ii) jail time not exceeding 90 days;  
25                 (iii) conditions for probation;

1                 (iv) restitution;

2                 (v) any other reasonable conditions considered  
3                 necessary for rehabilitation or for the protection of  
4                 society; or

5                 (vi) any combination of the above;

6                 (b) suspend execution of sentence up to the maximum  
7                 sentence allowed for the particular offense. The sentencing  
8                 judge may impose on the defendant any reasonable  
9                 restrictions during the period of suspended sentence. Such  
10                 reasonable restrictions may include any of those listed in  
11                 subsections (1)(a)(i) through (1)(a)(vi).

12                 (c) impose a fine as provided by law for the offense;

13                 (d) commit the defendant to a correctional institution  
14                 with or without a fine as provided by law for the offense;

15                 (e) impose any combination of subsections (1)(b),  
16                 (1)(c), and (1)(d).

17                 (2) If any restrictions or conditions imposed under  
18                 subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) are violated, any elapsed time,  
19                 except jail time, is not a credit against the sentence  
20                 unless the court orders otherwise.

21                 (3) Except as provided in 46-18-222, the imposition or  
22                 execution of the first 2 years of a sentence of imprisonment  
23                 imposed under the following sections may not be deferred or  
24                 suspended:      45-5-103(2),      45-5-202(2),      45-5-302(2),  
25                 45-5-303(2), 45-5-401(2), 45-5-503(2) and (3), 45-9-101(2)

1 and (3), 45-9-102(3), and 45-9-103(2).

2 (4) Except as provided in 46-18-222, the imposition or  
3 execution of the first 10 years of a sentence of  
4 imprisonment imposed under 45-5-102(2) may not be deferred  
5 or suspended."

-End-



1                   ----- BILL NO. -----  
2   INTRODUCED BY -----  
3                   BY REQUEST OF COMMITTEE  
4                   ON CORRECTIONS POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS  
5

6   A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FINES AND  
7   ASSESSMENT OF COSTS IN FELONY CRIMINAL CASES; ALLOWING  
8   COMMUNITY SERVICE AS A CONDITION OF DEFERRED OR SUSPENDED  
9   SENTENCES; AMENDING SECTION 46-18-201, MCA."

10  
11   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12       NEW SECTION. Section 1. Fines in felony cases. (1)  
13   Whenever, upon a verdict or a plea of guilty, a person has  
14   been found guilty of an offense for which a felony penalty  
15   could be imposed, the court may impose a fine. Except as  
16   provided in 45-5-103(2), 45-5-202(2), 45-5-302(2),  
17   45-5-303(2), 45-5-401(2), 45-5-503(2) and (3), 45-9-101(2)  
18   and (3), 45-9-102(3), and 45-9-103(2), a fine may be imposed  
19   in lieu of or in addition to a sentence of imprisonment.

20       (2) The court may not sentence a defendant to pay a  
21   fine unless the defendant is or will be able to pay the  
22   fine. In determining the amount and method of payment, the  
23   court shall take into account the nature of the crime  
24   committed, the financial resources of the defendant, and the  
25   nature of the burden that payment of the fine will impose.

1                   (3) The fine shall be in an amount fixed by the court.

2                 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Payment of costs by  
3 defendant. (1) A court may require a convicted defendant in  
4 a felony case to pay costs, as defined in 25-10-201, plus  
5 costs of jury service as a part of his sentence. Such costs  
6 shall be limited to expenses specifically incurred by the  
7 prosecution in connection with the proceedings against the  
8 defendant.

9                 (2) The court may not sentence a defendant to pay  
10 costs unless the defendant is or will be able to pay them.  
11 In determining the amount and method of payment of costs,  
12 the court shall take into account the financial resources of  
13 the defendant and the nature of the burden that payment of  
14 costs will impose.

15                 (3) A defendant who has been sentenced to pay costs  
16 and who is not in default in the payment thereof may at any  
17 time petition the court that sentenced him for remission of  
18 the payment of costs or of any unpaid portion thereof. If  
19 it appears to the satisfaction of the court that payment of  
20 the amount due will impose manifest hardship on the  
21 defendant or his immediate family, the court may remit all  
22 or part of the amount due in costs or modify the method of  
23 payment.

24                 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Fine or costs as a condition  
25 on suspended or deferred sentence. (1) Whenever a defendant

1       is sentenced to pay a fine or costs under [section 1 or 2]  
2       and the imposition or execution of the rest of his sentence  
3       is deferred or suspended, the court may make payment of the  
4       fine or costs a condition for probation.

5               (2) A suspended or deferred sentence may not be  
6       revoked if the defendant defaults on the payment of the fine  
7       and the default is not attributable to an intentional  
8       refusal to obey the order of the court or a failure to make  
9       a good faith effort to make the payment.

10               NEW SECTION. Section 4. When payment of fine or costs  
11       due. Whenever a defendant is sentenced to pay a fine or  
12       costs under [section 1 or 2], the court may grant permission  
13       for payment to be made within a specified period of time or  
14       in specified installments. If no such permission is included  
15       in the sentence, the payment is due immediately.

16               NEW SECTION. Section 5. Disposition of money  
17       collected as fines and costs. The money collected by a court  
18       as a result of the imposition of fines or assessment of  
19       costs under the provisions of [sections 1 and 2] shall be  
20       paid to the county general fund of the county in which the  
21       court is held.

22               Section 6. Section 46-18-201, MCA, is amended to read:  
23               "46-18-201. Sentences that may be imposed. (1)  
24       Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a  
25       verdict or a plea of guilty, the court may:

1                 (a) defer imposition of sentence, excepting sentences  
2         for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, for a  
3         period not exceeding 1 year for any misdemeanor or for a  
4         period not exceeding 3 years for any felony. The sentencing  
5         judge may impose upon the defendant any reasonable  
6         restrictions or conditions during the period of the deferred  
7         imposition. Such reasonable restrictions or conditions may  
8         include:

- 9                 (i) jail base release;  
10                (ii) jail time not exceeding 90 days;  
11                (iii) conditions for probation;  
12                (iv) restitution;  
13                ~~(v) payment of a fine as provided in [section 1];~~  
14                ~~(vi) payment of costs as provided in [sections 2 and~~  
15                ~~3];~~  
16                ~~(vii) community service;~~

17                ~~(viii)~~ any other reasonable conditions considered  
18         necessary for rehabilitation or for the protection of  
19         society; or

20                ~~(ix)~~ any combination of the above.  
21                (b) suspend execution of sentence up to the maximum  
22         sentence allowed for the particular offense. The sentencing  
23         judge may impose on the defendant any reasonable  
24         restrictions or conditions during the period of suspended  
25         sentence. Such reasonable restrictions or conditions may

include any of those listed in subsections (1)(a)(i) through (1)(a)(ix).

(c) impose a fine as provided by law for the offense;

(d) require payment of costs as provided in section

211

~~to~~ commit the defendant to a correctional institution with or without a fine as provided by law for the offense;

~~tetfif impose any combination of subsections (1)(b) through (11)(e).~~

(2) If any restrictions or conditions imposed under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) are violated, any elapsed time, except jail time, is not a credit against the sentence unless the court orders otherwise.

(3) Except as provided in 46-18-222, the imposition or execution of the first 2 years of a sentence of imprisonment imposed under the following sections may not be deferred or suspended: 45-5-103(2), 45-5-202(2), 45-5-302(2), 45-5-303(2), 45-5-401(2), 45-5-503(2) and (3), 45-9-101(2) and (3), 45-9-102(3), and 45-9-103(2).

(4) Except as provided in 46-18-222, the imposition or execution of the first 10 years of a sentence of imprisonment imposed under 45-5-102(2) may not be deferred or suspended."

**Section 7. Codification instruction.** It is intended

1   that sections 1 through 5 be codified as an integral part of  
2   Title 46, chapter 18, and the provisions of Title 46,  
3   chapter 18, apply to sections 1 through 5.

-End-

1               ----- BILL NO. -----  
2     INTRODUCED BY -----  
3               BY REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS  
4               POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS

5  
6     A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION  
7     46-18-221, MCA, TO PROVIDE THAT ADDITIONAL SENTENCES FOR  
8     CRIMES COMMITTED WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON ARE TO RUN  
9     CONSECUTIVELY WITH THE SENTENCE PROVIDED FOR THE OFFENSE."

10  
11    BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12               Section 1. Section 46-18-221, MCA, is amended to read:  
13               "46-18-221. Additional sentence for offenses committed  
14     with a dangerous weapon. (1) A person who has been found  
15     guilty of any offense and who, while engaged in the  
16     commission of the offense, knowingly displayed, brandished,  
17     or otherwise used a firearm, destructive device, as defined  
18     in 45-8-332(1), or other dangerous weapon shall, in addition  
19     to the punishment provided for the commission of such  
20     offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the state  
21     prison of not less than 2 years or more than 10 years,  
22     except as provided in 46-18-222.

23               (2) A person convicted of a second or subsequent  
24     offense under this section shall, in addition to the  
25     punishment provided for the commission of the present

1 offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the state  
2 prison of not less than 4 years or more than 20 years,  
3 except as provided in 46-18-222. For the purposes of this  
4 subsection, the following persons shall be considered to  
5 have been convicted of a previous offense under this  
6 section:

7 (a) a person who has previously been convicted of an  
8 offense, committed on a different occasion than the present  
9 offense, under 18 U.S.C. 924(c); and

10 (b) a person who has previously been convicted of an  
11 offense in this or another state, committed on a different  
12 occasion than the present offense, during the commission of  
13 which he knowingly displayed, brandished, or otherwise used  
14 a firearm, destructive device, as defined in 45-8-332(1), or  
15 other dangerous weapon.

16 (3) The imposition or execution of the minimum  
17 sentences prescribed by this section may not be deferred or  
18 suspended, except as provided in 46-18-222.

19 ~~141--An additional sentence prescribed by this section  
20 shall run consecutively with the sentence provided for the  
21 offense."~~

-End-

1                   BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
2   INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
3                 BY REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS  
4                 POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS  
5  
6   A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR  
7   INCREASED PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF  
8   THREE SEPARATE FELONIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 46-18-222 AND  
9   46-18-502, MCA."

10  
11   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12                 Section 1. Section 46-18-502, MCA, is amended to read:  
13                 "46-18-502. Sentencing of persistent felony offender.  
14                 (1) \* Except as provided in subsection (2), a persistent  
15                 felony offender shall be imprisoned in the state prison for  
16                 a term of not less than 5 years or more than 100 years if he  
17                 was 21 years of age or older at the time of the commission  
18                 of the present offense.

19                 (2) If the offender was a persistent felony offender,  
20                 as defined in 46-18-501, at the time of his previous felony  
21                 conviction, less than 5 years have elapsed between his  
22                 previous felony conviction and the commission of the present  
23                 offense, and he was 21 years of age or older at the time of  
24                 the commission of the present offense, he shall be  
25                 imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not less than

1       10 years or more than 100 years.

2           ~~t2t31~~ Except as provided in 46-18-222, the imposition  
3       or execution of the first 5 years of a sentence imposed  
4       under subsection (1) ~~or the first 10 years of a sentence~~  
5       imposed under subsection ~~121~~ may not be deferred or  
6       suspended."

7       Section 2. Section 46-18-222, MCA, is amended to read:  
8           "46-18-222. Exceptions to mandatory minimum sentences  
9       and restrictions on deferred imposition and suspended  
10      execution of sentence. All mandatory minimum sentences  
11      prescribed by the laws of this state and the restrictions on  
12      deferred imposition and suspended execution of sentence  
13      prescribed by subsections (3) and (4) of 46-18-201,  
14      46-18-221(3), and 46-18-502~~t2t31~~ do not apply if:

15           (1) the defendant was less than 18 years of age at the  
16      time of the commission of the offense for which he is to be  
17      sentenced;

18           (2) the defendant's mental capacity, at the time of  
19      the commission of the offense for which he is to be  
20      sentenced, was significantly impaired, although not so  
21      impaired as to constitute a defense to the prosecution;

22           (3) the defendant, at the time of the commission of  
23      the offense for which he is to be sentenced, was acting  
24      under unusual and substantial duress, although not such  
25      duress as would constitute a defense to the prosecution;

1           (4) the defendant was an accomplice, the conduct  
2 constituting the offense was principally the conduct of  
3 another, and the defendant's participation was relatively  
4 minor; or

5           (5) where applicable, no serious bodily injury was  
6 inflicted on the victim unless a weapon was used in the  
7 commission of the offense."

-End-



1                           ----- BILL NO. -----  
2   INTRODUCED BY -----  
3   BY REQUEST OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS POLICY  
4                           AND FACILITY NEEDS

6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REVISE THE LAWS  
7 RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 46-23-201  
8 AND 46-23-216, MCA."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11           Section 1. Section 46-23-201, MCA, is amended to read:  
12           "46-23-201. Prisoners eligible for parole. (1) Subject  
13         to the following restrictions, the board shall release on  
14         parole by appropriate order any person confined in the  
15         Montana state prison, except persons under sentence of death  
16         and persons serving sentences imposed under 46-18-202(2),  
17         when in its opinion there is reasonable probability that the  
18         prisoner can be released without detriment to himself or to  
19         the community:

(a) No convict serving a time sentence may be paroled until he has served at least **one-half two-thirds** of his full term, less the good time allowance provided for in 53-30-105; except that a convict designated as a nondangerous offender under 46-18-404 may be paroled after he has served **one-quarter** one-half of his full term, less

1       the good time allowance provided for in 53-30-105. Any  
2       offender serving a time sentence may be paroled after he has  
3       served, upon his term of sentence, 17 1/2 years.

4                 (b) No convict serving a life sentence may be paroled  
5       until he has served 30 years, less the good time allowance  
6       provided for in 53-30-105.

7                 (2) A parole shall be ordered only for the best  
8       interests of society and not as an award of clemency or a  
9       reduction of sentence or pardon. A prisoner shall be placed  
10      on parole only when the board believes that he is able and  
11      willing to fulfill the obligations of a law-abiding  
12      citizen."

13                 Section 2. Section 46-23-216, MCA, is amended to read:

14                 "46-23-216. Duration of parole. (1) A prisoner on  
15      parole who has served ~~one-half two-thirds~~ of his term or  
16      terms, less the good time allowance, or a nondangerous  
17      offender on parole who has served ~~one-quarter one-half~~ of  
18      his term or terms, less the good time allowance, is  
19      considered released on parole until the expiration of the  
20      maximum term or terms for which he was sentenced, less the  
21      good time allowance as provided for in 53-30-105.

22                 (2) The period served on parole or conditional release  
23      shall be deemed service of the term of imprisonment, and  
24      subject to the provisions contained in 46-23-1023 through  
25      46-23-1026 relating to a prisoner who is a fugitive from or

1 has fled from justice, the total time served may not exceed  
2 the maximum term or sentence. When a prisoner on parole or  
3 conditional release has performed the obligations of his  
4 release, the board shall make a final order of discharge and  
5 issue a certificate of discharge to the prisoner."

6       Section 3. Applicability. This act applies to all  
7 sentences imposed after June 30, 1981.

-End-



1

----- BILL NO. -----

2 INTRODUCED BY -----

3 BY REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS POLICY  
4 AND FACILITY NEEDS

5

6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO MAKE THE LAW  
7 RELATING TO GOOD TIME ALLOWANCE MORE RESTRICTIVE; AMENDING  
8 SECTION 53-30-105, MCA."

9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 Section 1. Section 53-30-105, MCA, is amended to read:  
12 "53-30-105. Good time allowance. (1) The department of  
13 institutions shall adopt rules providing for the granting of  
14 good time allowance for inmates employed in any prison work  
15 or activity. The good time allowance shall operate as a  
16 credit on his sentence as imposed by the court, conditioned  
17 upon the inmate's good behavior and compliance with the  
18 rules made by the department or the warden. The rules  
19 adopted by the department may not grant good time allowance  
20 to exceed:

21 (a) 10 days per month for inmates assigned within the  
22 confines of the walls of the prison;

23 (b) 13 days per month for those inmates placed outside  
24 the confines of the walls of the prison;

25 (c) 15 days per month for those inmates who have been

1 assigned outside the walls of the prison for an  
2 uninterrupted period of 1 year on a minimum status;

3 (d) 13 days per month for those inmates enrolled in  
4 school inside the walls who successfully complete the course  
5 of study or who while so enrolled are released from prison  
6 by discharge or parole.

7 ~~(e) 10 days for each pint of blood donated by an~~  
8 ~~inmate.~~

9 ~~(f) 5 days per month for those inmates participating~~  
10 ~~in self-improvement activities designated by the department.~~

11 (2) In the event of an attempted escape by an inmate  
12 or a violation of the rules prescribed by the department or  
13 warden, the inmate may be punished by the forfeiture of part  
14 or all good time allowances. The warden of the state prison  
15 shall advise the department of any attempted escape or  
16 violation of rules on the part of the inmate. Any punishment  
17 by forfeiture of good time allowance must be approved by the  
18 department.

19 (3) ~~This section applies to all persons who are on A~~  
20 ~~person may not earn good time under this section while he is~~  
21 ~~on probation or parole or eligible to be placed on probation~~  
22 ~~or parole. No person convicted and sentenced before April 1,~~  
23 ~~1955, shall have his good time allowance reduced as a result~~  
24 ~~of this section."~~

-End-

1                       BILL NO. -----  
2   INTRODUCED BY -----  
3                       BY REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS  
4                       POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS  
5

6   A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO CREATE A CORRECTIONS  
7   BOARD OF VISITORS; AND PROVIDING CERTAIN POWERS AND DUTIES."

8  
9   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10                 Section 1. Definitions. As used in [this act], the  
11   following definitions apply:

12                 (1) "Board" means the corrections board of visitors  
13   created by [section 2].

14                 (2) "Correctional facility" means the state prison; a  
15   residential facility for the rehabilitation of delinquent  
16   youth such as Pine Hills school in Miles City, Mountain View  
17   school in Helena, and Swan River youth forest camp; a county  
18   or city jail; or other facility used for the incarceration  
19   or custody of persons under sentence for offenses or  
20   awaiting proceedings or sentence for offenses.

21                 (3) "Department" means the department of institutions  
22   provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 23.

23                 (4) "Offense" means a crime for which a sentence of  
24   death or imprisonment or a fine is authorized.

25                 Section 2. Corrections board of visitors --

1       composition -- allocation. (1) There is a corrections board  
2       of visitors.

3               (2) The board consists of three members appointed by  
4       the governor for a term of 3 years, except that the first  
5       appointments shall be for terms of 1 year for one member, 2  
6       years for one member, and 3 years for one member.

7               (3) No one may be a member of the board who is an  
8       employee of the department of institutions. One member must  
9       have experience in law enforcement.

10              (4) A vacancy on the board shall be filled by  
11       appointment by the governor for the unexpired term.

12              (5) The board is attached to the legislative auditor  
13       for administrative purposes. The legislative auditor may  
14       employ staff for the purpose of carrying out the board's  
15       duties as set out in [section 4].

16       Section 3. Compensation -- expenses. Members of the  
17       board shall receive compensation of \$25 a day plus travel  
18       expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, as  
19       amended, while engaged in business of the board.

20       Section 4. Power and duties of the corrections board  
21       of visitors. (1) The board is an independent board of  
22       inquiry and review to assure that the condition, custody,  
23       treatment, training, discipline, rehabilitation, and health  
24       care of persons who are detained or confined in a  
25       correctional facility are just, humane, and decent and

1   consistent with the law and with written policy and  
2   procedure.

3                 (2) The board shall establish and maintain a  
4   continuing program of inspection of correctional facilities.

5                 (3) The board shall at least annually visit and  
6   inspect each state correctional facility and may inspect any  
7   local correctional facility. The board shall inspect the  
8   physical plant, including residential, recreational, dining,  
9   and sanitary facilities. The board shall inquire concerning  
10   all treatment, training, rehabilitation, and disciplinary  
11   programs being implemented by the facility.

12                (4) The board may investigate, upon a complaint or  
13   upon its own initiative, any alleged mistreatment of an  
14   inmate of a correctional facility.

15                (5) The board shall report annually to the governor  
16   and shall report to each session of the legislature  
17   concerning the status of the correctional facilities which  
18   the board has inspected during the applicable period. Such  
19   a report may include an evaluation of one or more of the  
20   programs being implemented by those facilities. Each such  
21   report must include but is not limited to:

22                (a) the findings made in its inspections and  
23   inquiries;

24                (b) the disposition of investigated complaints;

25                (c) recommendations to improve the condition or

1       operation of a correctional facility;

2               (d) where appropriate, mention of good programs found  
3       which can serve as examples for others; and

4               (e) a separate evaluation of the inmate grievance  
5       procedure at each state correctional facility.

6       Section 5. Board to have access to correctional  
7       facilities and records. The board and each member thereof  
8       shall, for the purpose of making an inspection as provided  
9       in [section 5], have access to:

10              (1) any state or local correctional facility, or any  
11       part thereof, at any time and may not be required to give  
12       advance notice of or to make prior arrangements before  
13       conducting an inspection; and

14              (2) all of the facility's records relating to inmate  
15       care and treatment. For this purpose, the compelling state  
16       interest in providing an independent review of conditions at  
17       the correctional facilities of the state override the  
18       interests of individual privacy with regard to all  
19       personally identifiable records held by the facility  
20       inspected.

-End-

1

----- BILL NO. -----

2 INTRODUCED BY -----  
3 BY REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS POLICY  
4 AND FACILITY NEEDS WITH NO RECOMMENDATION  
5

6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO GENERALLY REVISE  
7 SENTENCING LAWS; AMENDING SECTIONS 45-5-102 THROUGH  
8 45-5-105, 45-5-201 THROUGH 45-5-204, 45-5-302 THROUGH  
9 45-5-304, 45-5-401, 45-5-502, 45-5-503, 45-5-505, 45-5-603,  
10 45-5-613, 45-5-621, 45-5-625, 45-6-101 THROUGH 45-6-103,  
11 45-6-204, 46-18-101, 46-18-201, 46-18-222, AND 46-18-223,  
12 MCA; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 46-18-111 THROUGH 46-18-113,  
13 46-18-221, AND 46-18-501 THROUGH 46-18-503, MCA."

14

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16       Section 1. Section 46-18-101, MCA, is amended to read:

17       "46-18-101. Policy -- liberet construction. This  
18 chapter shall be liberetly construed to the end that persons  
19 a person convicted of a crime shall be dealt with in  
20 accordance with their---individual---characteristics,  
21 circumstances, needs, and potentialities--that--dangerous  
22 offenders--shall be correctively treated in custody for long  
23 terms as needed--and--that other--offenders--shall be dealt  
24 with by probation, suspended sentence, or fine whenever such  
25 disposition--appears--practicable and not detrimental to the

1       needs-of-public-safety-and-the-welfare-of-the-individual the  
2       seriousness\_of\_the\_crime\_committed\_and\_in\_accordance\_with  
3       dis\_prior\_records\_A\_person\_convicted\_of\_a\_crime\_may\_be\_dealt  
4       with\_by\_fines\_when\_provided\_for\_by\_law\_or\_by\_deferred  
5       imposition\_or\_suspension\_of\_sentence\_if\_the\_age\_of\_the  
6       person\_or\_the\_circumstances\_surrounding\_the\_crime\_warrant  
7       such\_treatment\_as\_provided\_for\_in\_this\_chapter."

8              Section 2. Section 46-18-201, MCA, is amended to read:

9                  "46-18-201. Sentences that may be imposed. (1)  
10       Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a  
11       verdict or a plea of guilty, the court may:

12               (a) defer imposition of sentence for\_\_\_\_persons  
13       committing\_a\_first\_offense\_and\_who\_are\_eligible\_under  
14       46-18-222, excepting sentences for driving under the  
15       influence of alcohol or drugs, for a period not exceeding 1  
16       year for any misdemeanor or for a period not exceeding 3  
17       years for any felony. The sentencing judge may impose upon  
18       the defendant any reasonable restrictions or conditions  
19       during the period of the deferred imposition. Such  
20       reasonable restrictions or conditions may include:

- 21               (i) jail base release;  
22               (ii) jail time not exceeding 90 days;  
23               (iii) conditions for probation;  
24               (iv) restitution;  
25               (v) any other reasonable conditions considered

1       necessary for rehabilitation or for the protection of  
2       society; or

3                 (vi) any combination of the above;

4                 (b) suspend execution of sentence ~~for persons eligible~~  
5       under ~~46-18-222~~ up to the maximum sentence allowed for the  
6       particular offense. The sentencing judge may impose on the  
7       defendant any reasonable restrictions during the period of  
8       suspended sentence. Such reasonable restrictions may include  
9       any of those listed in subsections (1)(a)(i) through  
10      (1)(a)(vi).

11                 (c) impose a fine as provided by law for the offense;

12                 (d) commit the defendant to a correctional institution  
13       with or without a fine as provided by law for the offense;

14                 (e) impose any combination of subsections (1)(b),  
15      (1)(c), and (1)(d).

16                 (2) If any restrictions or conditions imposed under  
17       subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) are violated, any elapsed time,  
18       except jail time, is not a credit against the sentence  
19       unless the court orders otherwise.

20                 t3j--Except-as-provided-in-46-18-222v-the-imposition-or  
21       execution-of-the-first-2-years-of-a-sentence-of-imprisonment  
22       imposed--under-the-following-sections-may-not-be-deferred-or  
23       suspended----45-5-103{2}v----45-5-202{2}v----45-5-302{2}v  
24       45-5-303{2}v--45-5-401{2}v--45-5-503{2}v-and-{3}v-45-9-101{2}v  
25       and-{3}v-45-9-102{3}v-and-45-9-103{2}v

1                t47--Except-as-provided-in-46-18-222v-the-imposition-or  
2        execution--of--the--first--#0--years--of---a---sentence---of  
3        imprisonment--imposed--under-45-5-102t27-may-not-be-deferred  
4        or-suspended"

5                NEW SECTION. Section 3. Mandatory sentences to be  
6        imposed for felonies -- exceptions. Except as provided in  
7        46-18-201, the court shall impose the mandatory sentence  
8        provided by law for a felony offense unless the court finds  
9        in accordance with [section 5] that aggravating  
10      circumstances are present or in accordance with [section 6]  
11      that mitigating circumstances are present.

12                NEW SECTION. Section 4. Hearing to determine  
13      exceptions to mandatory sentences. (1) Upon request of  
14      either the defendant or the prosecution, the court shall  
15      grant a hearing prior to the imposition of sentence to  
16      determine the existence of circumstances enumerated in  
17      [section 5 or 6].

18                (2) The hearing shall be held before the court sitting  
19      without a jury. The defendant and the prosecution are  
20      entitled to the assistance of counsel, compulsory process,  
21      and cross-examination of witnesses who appear at the  
22      hearing.

23                (3) If it appears by a preponderance of the evidence  
24      submitted during the trial and during the sentencing hearing  
25      that none of the circumstances enumerated in [section 5 or

1       6] existed, the court shall impose the applicable mandatory  
2 sentence. If it appears by a preponderance of the evidence  
3 that one or more of the circumstances enumerated in [section  
4 5 or 6] existed, the court shall impose the applicable  
5 sentence as provided in [section 5 or 6].

6             (4) The court shall state the reasons for its decision  
7 in writing and shall include an identification of the facts  
8 relied upon in making its determination. The statement  
9 shall be included in the judgment.

10            ~~NEW SECTION~~ Section 5. Aggravating circumstances for  
11 felonies -- increased penalties. (1) The court shall add to  
12 the mandatory sentence for a felony offense 25% of the  
13 mandatory sentence for each of the following aggravating  
14 circumstances found by the court to have existed at the time  
15 the offense was committed:

16            (a) the victim was mentally defective or  
17 incapacitated;

18            (b) the victim was physically helpless;

19            (c) The victim was less than 16 years old or 65 years  
20 of age or older;

21            (d) there were multiple victims;

22            (e) the defendant threatened to inflict bodily injury  
23 upon any person or knowingly put any person in fear of  
24 immediate bodily injury;

25            (f) the defendant took advantage of his fiduciary

1       relationship with the victim to commit the offense;

2                 (g) the defendant used or involved minors in the  
3 commission of the crime; or

4                 (h) the defendant, prior to age 18, had committed an  
5 act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult.

6                 (2) The court shall add to the mandatory sentence for  
7 a felony offense 50% of the mandatory sentence for each of  
8 the following aggravating circumstances found by the court  
9 to have existed at the time the offense was committed:

10                 (a) the defendant inflicted bodily injury upon  
11 another;

12                 (b) the defendant received compensation for committing  
13 the offense;

14                 (c) the defendant, while engaged in the commission of  
15 the offense, knowingly displayed, brandished, or otherwise  
16 used a firearm, destructive device as defined in  
17 45-8-332(1), or other dangerous weapon;

18                 (d) the defendant had previously been convicted of a  
19 felony.

20                 (3) The court shall add to the mandatory sentence for  
21 a felony offense 100% of the mandatory sentence for each of  
22 the following aggravating circumstances found by the court  
23 to have existed at the time the offense was committed:

24                 (a) the defendant is a person who had previously been  
25 convicted of an offense committed under 1P U.S.C. 924(c) on

1       a different occasion than the present offense or who had  
2       previously been convicted of an offense in this or another  
3       state, committed on a different occasion than the present  
4       offense, during the commission of which he knowingly  
5       displayed, brandished, or otherwise used a firearm,  
6       destructive device as defined in 45-8-332(1), or other  
7       dangerous weapon.

8                 (b) the defendant is a person who had previously been  
9       convicted of a second felony offense and who is presently  
10      being sentenced for a third or subsequent felony committed  
11      on a different occasion than any of his prior felonies.

12                 (4) For the purpose of this section, an offender is  
13      considered to have been previously convicted of a felony if:

14                 (a) the previous felony conviction was for an offense  
15      committed in this state or any other jurisdiction for which  
16      a sentence to a term of imprisonment in excess of 1 year  
17      could have been imposed; and

18                 (b) the offender has not been pardoned on the ground  
19      of innocence and the conviction has not been set aside in a  
20      postconviction hearing.

21                 (5) A circumstance that constitutes a lesser included  
22      offense of the present offense or a circumstance that  
23      constitutes a necessary element of the present offense may  
24      not be found to be an aggravating circumstance for purposes  
25      of this section.

1           **NEW SECTION.** Section 6. Mitigating circumstances for  
2 felonies -- reduced penalties. If appropriate for the  
3 offense, the court shall reduce the sentence for a felony  
4 offense by 10% for each of the following mitigating  
5 circumstances found to be present:

6           (1) The defendant, at the time of the commission of  
7 the offense for which he is to be sentenced, was acting  
8 under unusual and substantial duress. The duress need not  
9 be such that it would constitute a defense to the  
10 prosecution.

11           (2) The defendant was an accomplice, the conduct  
12 constituting the offense was principally the conduct of  
13 another, and the defendant's participation was relatively  
14 minor.

15           (3) No serious bodily injury was inflicted on the  
16 victim nor was a weapon used in the commission of the  
17 offense.

18           (4) The defendant has fully compensated or can  
19 reasonably be expected to fully compensate the victim of his  
20 criminal conduct.

21           (5) The defendant assisted law enforcement authorities  
22 in the performance of their duties.

23           Section 7. Section 46-18-222, MCA, is amended to read:  
24           "46-18-222. **Exceptions-to-mandatory-minimum-sentences**  
25           **and---restrictions--on--deferred--imposition--and--suspended**

1       execution-of-sentence Eligibility\_for\_deferred\_or\_suspended  
2       sentence. At-mandatory-minimum-sentences-prescribed-by-the  
3       laws--of--this--state--and--the--restrictions--on--deferred  
4       imposition-and-suspended-execution-of-sentence-prescribed-by  
5       subsections--{3}--and--{4}--of--46-18-201v-46-18-22{3}v--and  
6       46-18-502{2}--do-not-apply-if A\_person\_is\_eligible\_for\_a  
7       deferred\_imposition\_or\_suspension\_of\_sentence\_as\_provided\_in  
8       46-18-201\_if:

9                 (1) the defendant was less than 18 years of age at the  
10 time of the commission of the offense for which he is to be  
11 sentenced;

12                 (2) the defendant's mental capacity, at the time of  
13 the commission of the offense for which he is to be  
14 sentenced, was significantly impaired, although not so  
15 impaired as to constitute a defense to the prosecution;

16                 (3) the defendant, at the time of the commission of  
17 the offense for which he is to be sentenced, was acting  
18 under unusual and substantial duress, although not such  
19 duress as would constitute a defense to the prosecution;

20                 (4) the defendant was an accomplice, the conduct  
21 constituting the offense was principally the conduct of  
22 another, and the defendant's participation was relatively  
23 minor; or

24                 (5) where applicable, no serious bodily injury was  
25 inflicted on the victim unless a weapon was used in the

1       commission of the offense."

2           Section 8. Section 46-18-223, MCA, is amended to read:

3           "46-18-223. Hearing to determine application--of

4        exceptions eligibility. (1) When the--application--of--an

5        exception--provided--for--in    eligibility--for--deferred

6        imposition\_or\_suspension\_of\_sentence\_under 46-18-222 is an

7        issue, upon--request the court shall grant the defendant a

8        hearing prior to the imposition of sentence to determine the

9        applicability-of-the-exception such\_eligibility.

10          (2) The hearing shall be held before the court sitting

11        without a jury. The defendant and the prosecution are

12        entitled to assistance of counsel, compulsory process, and

13        cross-examination of witnesses who appear at the hearing.

14          (3) If it appears by a preponderance of the

15        information evidence, including information submitted during

16        the trial, and during the sentencing hearing, and-in-so-much

17        off--the-presentence-report-as-the-court-retires-only that none

18        of the exceptions-at-issue provisions\_for\_eligibility apply,

19        the court shall impose the appropriate applicable mandatory

20        sentence with\_no\_deferred\_imposition\_or\_suspension\_thereof.

21          ¶1 The court shall state the reasons for its decision

22        in writing and shall include an identification of the facts

23        relied upon in making its determination. The statement shall

24        be included in the judgment."

25           Section 9. Section 45-5-102, MCA, is amended to read:

1           "45-5-102. Deliberate homicide. (1) Except as provided  
2       in 45-5-103(1), criminal homicide constitutes deliberate  
3       homicide if:

4           (a) it is committed purposely or knowingly; or  
5           (b) it is committed while the offender is engaged in  
6       or is an accomplice in the commission of, an attempt to  
7       commit, or flight after committing or attempting to commit  
8       robbery, sexual intercourse without consent, arson,  
9       burglary, kidnapping, felonious escape, or any other felony  
10      which involves the use or threat of physical force or  
11      violence against any individual.

12          (2) A person convicted of the offense of deliberate  
13       homicide shall be punished by death or life imprisonment as  
14       provided in 46-18-301 through 46-18-310 or by imprisonment  
15       in the state prison for a term of ~~not-less-than-10-years--or~~  
16       ~~more-than-100 50 years--except-as-provided-in-46-18-222."~~

17          Section 10. Section 45-5-103, MCA, is amended to read:

18          "45-5-103. Mitigated deliberate homicide. (1) Criminal  
19       homicide constitutes mitigated deliberate homicide when a  
20       homicide which would otherwise be deliberate homicide is  
21       committed under the influence of extreme mental or emotional  
22       stress for which there is reasonable explanation or excuse.  
23       The reasonableness of such explanation or excuse shall be  
24       determined from the viewpoint of a reasonable person in the  
25       actor's situation.

1           (2) A person convicted of mitigated deliberate  
2 homicide shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term  
3 of ~~not-less-than-2-years-or-more-than-40~~ 32 years--except-as  
4 provided-in-46-10-222."

5           Section 11. Section 45-5-104, MCA, is amended to read:  
6           "45-5-104. Negligent homicide. (1) Criminal homicide  
7 constitutes negligent homicide when it is committed  
8 negligently.

9           (2) A person convicted of negligent homicide shall be  
10 imprisoned in the state prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not-to-exceed~~  
11 ~~to~~ ~~of~~ 20 years."

12           Section 12. Section 45-5-105, MCA, is amended to read:  
13           "45-5-105. Aiding or soliciting suicide. (1) A person  
14 who purposely aids or solicits another to commit suicide,  
15 but such suicide does not occur, commits the offense of  
16 aiding or soliciting suicide.

17           (2) A person convicted of the offense of aiding or  
18 soliciting a suicide shall be imprisoned in the state prison  
19 for ~~any~~ a term ~~not-to-exceed~~ of 10 years."

20           Section 13. Section 45-5-201, MCA, is amended to read:  
21           "45-5-201. Assault. (1) A person commits the offense  
22 of assault if he:

23           (a) purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to  
24 another;

25           (b) negligently causes bodily injury to another with a

1        weapon;

2            (c) purposely or knowingly makes physical contact of  
3        an insulting or provoking nature with any individual; or

4            (d) purposely or knowingly causes reasonable  
5        apprehension of bodily injury in another. The purpose to  
6        cause reasonable apprehension or the knowledge that  
7        reasonable apprehension would be caused shall be presumed in  
8        any case in which a person knowingly points a firearm at or  
9        in the direction of another, whether or not the offender  
10      believes the firearm to be loaded.

11            (2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a person  
12      convicted of assault shall be fined not to exceed \$500 or be  
13      imprisoned in the county jail for any term not to exceed 6  
14      months, or both.

15            (3) If the victim is less than 14 years old and the  
16      offender is 18 or more years old, the offender, upon  
17      conviction under subsection (1)(a), shall be imprisoned in  
18      the state prison for a term ~~not-to-exceed-5~~ of 10 years."

19            Section 14. Section 45-5-202, MCA, is amended to read:

20            "45-5-202. Aggravated assault. (1) A person commits  
21      the offense of aggravated assault if he purposely or  
22      knowingly causes:

23            (a) serious bodily injury to another;

24            (b) bodily injury to another with a weapon;

25            (c) reasonable apprehension of serious bodily injury

1       in another by use of a weapon; or

2             (d) bodily injury to a peace officer.

3             (2) A person convicted of aggravated assault shall be  
4       imprisoned in the state prison for a term of ~~not-less-than-~~  
5       years---or---more--than 20 years---except--as--provided--in  
6       46-18-222."

7       Section 15. Section 45-5-203, MCA, is amended to read:

8             "45-5-203. Intimidation. (1) A person commits the  
9       offense of intimidation when, with the purpose to cause  
10      another to perform or to omit the performance of any act, he  
11      communicates to another a threat to perform without lawful  
12      authority any of the following acts:

13             (a) inflict physical harm on the person threatened or  
14      any other person or on property;

15             (b) subject any person to physical confinement or  
16      restraint;

17             (c) commit any criminal offense;

18             (d) accuse any person of an offense;

19             (e) expose any person to hatred, contempt, or  
20      ridicule; or

21             (f) take action as a public official against anyone or  
22      anything, withhold official action, or cause such action or  
23      withholding.

24             (2) A person commits the offense of intimidation if he  
25      knowingly communicates a threat or false report of a pending

1 fire, explosion, or disaster which would endanger life or  
2 property.

3 (3) A person convicted of the offense of intimidation  
4 shall be imprisoned in the state prison for ~~any~~ a term not  
5 ~~to-exceed-#0 of 2~~ years."

6 Section 16. Section 45-5-204, MCA, is amended to read:  
7 "45-5-204. Mistreating prisoners. (1) A person commits  
8 the offense of mistreating prisoners if, being responsible  
9 for the care or custody of a prisoner, he purposely or  
10 knowingly:

11 (a) assaults or otherwise injures a prisoner;  
12 (b) intimidates, threatens, endangers, or withholds  
13 reasonable necessities from the prisoner with the purpose to  
14 obtain a confession from him or for any other purpose; or  
15 (c) violates any civil right of a prisoner.

16 (2) A person convicted of the offense of mistreating  
17 prisoners shall be removed from office or employment and  
18 imprisoned in the state prison for a term ~~not-to-exceed-#0~~  
19 ~~of 2~~ years."

20 Section 17. Section 45-5-302, MCA, is amended to read:  
21 "45-5-302. Kidnapping. (1) A person commits the  
22 offense of kidnapping if he knowingly or purposely and  
23 without lawful authority restrains another person by either  
24 secreting or holding him in a place of isolation or by using  
25 or threatening to use physical force.

1           (2) A person convicted of the offense of kidnapping  
2 shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of ~~not~~  
3 ~~less--than--2--years--or--more--than--to~~ 20 years~~v-except-as~~  
4 ~~provided-in-46-18-222."~~

5           Section 18. Section 45-5-303, MCA, is amended to read:  
6           "45-5-303. Aggravated kidnapping. (1) A person commits  
7 the offense of aggravated kidnapping if he knowingly or  
8 purposely and without lawful authority restrains another  
9 person by either secreting or holding him in a place of  
10 isolation or by using or threatening to use physical force,  
11 with any of the following purposes:

12           (a) to hold for ransom or reward or as a shield or  
13 hostage;

14           (b) to facilitate commission of any felony or flight  
15 thereafter;

16           (c) to inflict bodily injury on or to terrorize the  
17 victim or another;

18           (d) to interfere with the performance of any  
19 governmental or political function; or

20           (e) to hold another in a condition of involuntary  
21 servitude.

22           (2) Except as provided in 46-18-222, a person  
23 convicted of the offense of aggravated kidnapping shall be  
24 punished by death or life imprisonment as provided in  
25 46-18-301 through 46-18-310 or be imprisoned in the state

1 prison for a term of ~~not-less-than-2-years-or-more-than-10~~  
2 ~~40~~ years, unless he has voluntarily released the victim  
3 alive, in a safe place, and not suffering from serious  
4 bodily injury, in which event he shall be imprisoned in the  
5 state prison for a term of ~~not-less-than-2-years-or-more~~  
6 ~~than-10 & years."~~

7 Section 19. Section 45-5-304, MCA, is amended to read:  
8  
9 "45-5-304. Custodial interference. (1) A person  
10 commits the offense of custodial interference if, knowing  
11 that he has no legal right to do so, he takes, entices, or  
12 withdraws from lawful custody any child, incompetent person,  
13 or other person entrusted by authority of law to the custody  
of another person or institution.

14 (2) A person convicted of the offense of custodial  
15 interference shall be imprisoned in the state prison for ~~any~~  
16 a term ~~not-to-exceed-10 of 5~~ years.

17 (3) A person who has not left the state does not  
18 commit an offense under this section if he voluntarily  
19 returns such person to lawful custody prior to arraignment.  
20 A person who has left the state does not commit an offense  
21 under this section if he voluntarily returns such person to  
22 lawful custody prior to arrest."

23 Section 20. Section 45-5-401, MCA, is amended to read:  
24  
25 "45-5-401. Robbery. (1) A person commits the offense  
of robbery if in the course of committing a theft he:

1                 (a) inflicts bodily injury upon another;  
2                 (b) threatens to inflict bodily injury upon any person  
3                 or purposely or knowingly puts any person in fear of  
4                 immediate bodily injury; or  
5                 (c) commits or threatens immediately to commit any  
6                 felony other than theft.

7                 (2) A person convicted of the offense of robbery shall  
8                 be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of ~~not--less~~  
9                 than-2-years-or-more-than-40 20 years~~--except-as-provided-in~~  
10                 46-18-222.

11                 (3) "In the course of committing a theft" as used in  
12                 this section includes acts which occur in an attempt to  
13                 commit or in the commission of theft or in flight after the  
14                 attempt or commission."

15                 Section 21. Section 45-5-502, MCA, is amended to read:  
16                 "45-5-502. Sexual assault. (1) A person who knowingly  
17                 subjects another not his spouse to any sexual contact  
18                 without consent commits the offense of sexual assault.

19                 (2) A person convicted of sexual assault shall be  
20                 fined not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail  
21                 for any term not to exceed 6 months.

22                 (3) If the victim is less than 16 years old and the  
23                 offender is 3 or more years older than the victim or if the  
24                 offender inflicts bodily injury upon anyone in the course of  
25                 committing sexual assault, he shall be imprisoned in the

1 state prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not-to-exceed-20~~ of ~~10~~ years.

2 (4) An act "in the course of committing sexual  
3 assault" shall include an attempt to commit the offense or  
4 flight after the attempt or commission.

5 (5) Consent is ineffective under this section if the  
6 victim is less than 14 years old and the offender is 3 or  
7 more years older than the victim."

8 Section 22. Section 45-5-503, MCA, is amended to read:

9 "45-5-503. Sexual intercourse without consent. (1) A  
10 person who knowingly has sexual intercourse without consent  
11 with a person of the opposite sex not his spouse commits the  
12 offense of sexual intercourse without consent.

13 (2) A person convicted of sexual intercourse without  
14 consent shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term  
15 of ~~not-less-than-2-years-or-more-than~~ 20 years--except--as  
16 provided-in-46-10-222.

17 (3) If the victim is less than 16 years old and the  
18 offender is 3 or more years older than the victim or if the  
19 offender inflicts bodily injury upon anyone in the course of  
20 committing sexual intercourse without consent, he shall be  
21 imprisoned in the state prison for ~~any~~ term of ~~not-less-than~~  
22 ~~2-years-or-more-than-40~~ 30 years--except--as--provided--in  
23 46-10-222.

24 (4) An act "in the course of committing sexual  
25 intercourse without consent" shall include an attempt to

1 commit the offense or flight after the attempt or  
2 commission.

3 (5) No evidence concerning the sexual conduct of the  
4 victim is admissible in prosecutions under this section,  
5 except:

6 (a) evidence of the victim's past sexual conduct with  
7 the offender;

8 (b) evidence of specific instances of the victim's  
9 sexual activity to show the origin of semen, pregnancy, or  
10 disease which is at issue in the prosecution under this  
11 section.

12 (6) If the defendant proposes for any purpose to offer  
13 evidence described in subsection (5)(a) or (5)(b), the trial  
14 judge shall order a hearing out of the presence of the jury  
15 to determine whether the proposed evidence is admissible  
16 under subsection (5).

17 (7) Evidence of failure to make a timely complaint or  
18 immediate outcry does not raise any presumption as to the  
19 credibility of the victim."

20 Section 23. Section 45-5-505, MCA, is amended to read:

21 "45-5-505. Deviate sexual conduct. (1) A person who  
22 knowingly engages in deviate sexual relations or who causes  
23 another to engage in deviate sexual relations commits the  
24 offense of deviate sexual conduct.

25 (2) A person convicted of the offense of deviate

1 sexual conduct shall be imprisoned in the state prison for  
2 any a term not-to-exceed-~~to~~ of 2 years.

3 (3) A person convicted of deviate sexual conduct  
4 without consent shall be imprisoned in the state prison for  
5 any a term not-to-exceed-~~20~~ of 10 years."

6 Section 24. Section 45-5-603, MCA, is amended to read:

7 "45-5-603. Aggravated promotion of prostitution. (1) A  
8 person commits the offense of aggravated promotion of  
9 prostitution if he purposely or knowingly commits any of the  
10 following acts:

11 (a) compels another to engage in or promote  
12 prostitution;

13 (b) promotes prostitution of a child under the age of  
14 18 years, whether or not he is aware of the child's age;

15 (c) promotes the prostitution of one's spouse, child,  
16 ward, or any person for whose care, protection, or support  
17 he is responsible.

18 (2) A person convicted of aggravated promotion of  
19 prostitution shall be imprisoned in the state prison for any  
20 a term not-to-exceed-~~20~~ of 10 years."

21 Section 25. Section 45-5-613, MCA, is amended to read:

22 "45-5-613. Incest. (1) A person commits the offense of  
23 incest if he knowingly marries or cohabits or has sexual  
24 intercourse with an ancestor, a descendant, a brother or  
25 sister of the whole or half blood. The relationships

1 referred to herein include blood relationships without  
2 regard to legitimacy and relationships of parent and child  
3 by adoption.

4 (2) A person convicted of incest shall be imprisoned  
5 in the state prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not-to-exceed-10~~ of 2  
6 years."

7 Section 26. Section 45-5-621, MCA, is amended to read:

8 "45-5-621. Nonsupport. (1) A person commits the  
9 offense of nonsupport if he fails to provide support which  
10 he can provide and which he knows he is legally obliged to  
11 provide to a spouse, child, or other dependent.

12 (2) A person commits the offense of aggravated  
13 nonsupport if:

14 (a) the offender has left the state to avoid the duty  
15 of support; or

16 (b) the offender has been previously convicted of the  
17 offense of nonsupport.

18 (3) A person convicted of nonsupport shall be fined  
19 not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for  
20 any term not to exceed 6 months, or both. A person convicted  
21 of aggravated nonsupport shall be imprisoned in the state  
22 prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not-to-exceed-10~~ of 2 years.

23 (4) The court may order, in its discretion, any fine  
24 levied or any bond forfeited upon a charge of nonsupport  
25 paid to or for the benefit of any person that the defendant

1 has failed to support."

2       Section 27. Section 45-5-625, MCA, is amended to read:  
3       "45-5-625. Sexual abuse of children. (1) A person  
4       commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if he  
5       knowingly:

6           (a) employs, uses, or permits the employment or use of  
7       a child in an exhibition of sexual contact, actual or  
8       simulated;

9           (b) photographs, films, videotapes, or records a child  
10      engaging in sexual contact, actual or simulated;

11          (c) persuades, entices, counsels, or procures a child  
12      to engage in sexual contact, actual or simulated, for use as  
13      designated in (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(d);

14          (d) processes, develops, prints, publishes,  
15      transports, distributes, sells, possesses with intent to  
16      sell, exhibits, or advertises material consisting of or  
17      including a photograph, photographic negative, undeveloped  
18      film, videotape, or recording representing a child engaging  
19      in sexual contact, actual or simulated; or

20          (e) finances any of the activities described in  
21      subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) knowing that the activity  
22      is of the nature described in those subsections.

23          (2) A person convicted of the offense of sexual abuse  
24      of children shall be fined not to exceed \$10,000 or be  
25      imprisoned in the state prison for any a term not-to-exceed

1       of 20 years, or both.

2           (3) For the purposes of this section, "child" means  
3       any person less than 16 years old."

4           Section 23. Section 45-6-101, MCA, is amended to read:

5           "45-6-101. Criminal mischief. (1) A person commits the  
6       offense of criminal mischief if he knowingly or purposely:

7           (a) injures, damages, or destroys any property of  
8       another or public property without consent;

9           (b) without consent tampers with property of another  
10      or public property so as to endanger or interfere with  
11      persons or property or its use;

12           (c) damages or destroys property with the purpose to  
13      defraud an insurer; or

14           (d) fails to close a gate previously unopened which he  
15      has opened, leading in or out of any enclosed premises. This  
16      does not apply to gates located in cities or towns.

17           (2) A person convicted of the offense of criminal  
18      mischief shall be fined not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned  
19      in the county jail for any term not to exceed 6 months, or  
20      both. If the offender commits the offense of criminal  
21      mischief and causes pecuniary loss in excess of \$150,  
22      injures or kills a commonly domesticated hooved animal, or  
23      causes a substantial interruption or impairment of public  
24      communication, transportation, supply of water, gas, or  
25      power, or other public services, he shall be imprisoned in

1 the state prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not-to-exceed-10 of 4~~  
2 years."

3 Section 29. Section 45-6-102, MCA, is amended to read:

4 "45-6-102. Negligent arson. (1) A person commits the  
5 offense of negligent arson if he purposely or knowingly  
6 starts a fire or causes an explosion, whether on his own  
7 property or property of another, and thereby negligently:

8 (a) places another person in danger of death or bodily  
9 injury; or

10 (b) places property of another in danger of damage or  
11 destruction.

12 (2) A person convicted of the offense of negligent  
13 arson shall be fined not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in  
14 the county jail for any term not to exceed 6 months, or  
15 both. If the offender places another person in danger of  
16 death or bodily injury, he shall be imprisoned in the state  
17 prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not-to-exceed-10 of 5~~ years."

18 Section 30. Section 45-6-103, MCA, is amended to read:

19 "45-6-103. Arson. (1) A person commits the offense of  
20 arson when, by means of fire or explosives, he knowingly or  
21 purposely:

22 (a) damages or destroys an occupied structure which is  
23 property of another without consent; or

24 (b) places another person in danger of death or bodily  
25 injury.

1           (2) A person convicted of the offense of arson shall  
2 be imprisoned in the state prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not--to-~~  
3 ~~exceed-20 of 10 years."~~

4           Section 31. Section 45-6-204, MCA, is amended to read:

5           "45-6-204. Burglary. (1) A person commits the offense  
6 of burglary if he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in  
7 an occupied structure with the purpose to commit an offense  
8 therein.

9           (2) A person commits the offense of aggravated  
10 burglary if he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in an  
11 occupied structure with the purpose to commit a felony  
12 therein and:

13           (a) in effecting entry or in the course of committing  
14 the offense or in immediate flight thereafter, he or another  
15 participant in the offense is armed with explosives or a  
16 weapon; or

17           (b) in effecting entry or in the course of committing  
18 the offense or in immediate flight thereafter, he purposely,  
19 knowingly, or negligently inflicts or attempts to inflict  
20 bodily injury upon anyone.

21           (3) A person convicted of the offense of burglary  
22 shall be imprisoned in the state prison for ~~any~~ a term ~~not~~  
23 ~~--exceed of 10 years. A person convicted of the offense of~~  
24 ~~aggravated burglary shall be imprisoned in the state prison~~  
25 ~~for any a term not-to-exceed-40 of 20 years."~~

1           Section 32. Codification. Sections 3 through 6 are  
2 intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 46,  
3 chapter 18, and the provisions contained in Title 46,  
4 chapter 18, apply to sections 3 through 6.

5           Section 33. Repealer. Sections 46-18-111 through  
6 46-18-113, 46-18-221, and 46-18-501 through 46-18-503, "CA,  
7 are repealed.

-End-







244